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A kind of living room:
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£220,760 for girl in birth error
Johanna Mitchell, aged four, who suffered brain damage before birth because of a hospital mistake, has been awarded damages totalling £220,760 with interest. She cannot walk, speak or learn language Page 3

£192m extra aid for NCB
The Government has given an extra grant of £192m to the National Coal Board for the current financial year and may have to give it a further £80m to cover its losses Page 15

Kohl at bay
Chancellor Kohl and Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, came under bitter opposition attack in Parliament over the Kiesling affair Page 7

Punjab halted
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At last some excitement!
The first 500 Marines will be out of Beirut within 30 days and the remainder will be withdrawn "depending on the situation on the ground". Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, will submit a detailed plan to President Reagan today or tomorrow.

Olympics open
The Yugoslav President performed the ceremonial opening of the fourteenth Winter Olympics at Sarajevo. Christopher Dean, the ice dancer, carried the flag for Britain Page 22 and back page

More aid urged
The funding of citizens advice bureaux should be increased by £1m, an independent review team recommends Page 3

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British troops quit Beirut but Italy and France remain

● The 100-man British contingent to the Lebanon multinational peacekeeping force withdrew at short notice yesterday to a Royal Naval auxiliary offshore
● In the Commons, senior Conservatives pressed Sir Geoffrey Howe to take a diplomatic initiative in Lebanon to prevent more serious developments
● Following President Reagan's directive, the USS battleship New Jersey bombarded Muslim positions in the hills behind Beirut with more than 100 salvos
● France and Italy appear to have no intention to withdraw their troops just yet. They both want the UN to take over (page 6)
● The Soviet Union is sending Mr Geidar Aliyev, one of the most dynamic Politburo members, to Damascus to capitalize on American discomfiture (page 6)
● The Israeli Cabinet was summoned into emergency session to review the situation. No decisions were made and the ministers reconvene on Sunday (page 6)

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

With scarcely any warning and without making any arrangements for the evacuation of British residents from Beirut, Britain withdrew its tiny military contingent of the multinational force from Lebanon yesterday, handing over its headquarters at only a few hours notice to pro-Gemayel units of the fragmented Lebanese army, and then flying its men out to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant in the Mediterranean on board three American helicopters.

The final decision to withdraw the 100-strong contingent from Lebanon was apparently made in London on Tuesday night after President Reagan had let it be known that he was pulling the Marines out of Beirut.

Orders went out immediately to Lieutenant Colonel Peter Wooley to abandon his headquarters in the suburb of Hadeth to Lebanese troops. At 11.30 yesterday morning, the 16/5th Queen's Royal Lancers drove their Ferret armoured vehicles, jeeps and trucks out of the tobacco factory complex where they are based and headed for the port of Jounieh 12 miles north of the capital.

A few minutes afterwards, a Lebanese soldier answered the telephone at the heavily fortified building the British had just left, saying that the former base was under heavy shelling.

Some Orwellian language surrounded the sudden British departure. British officials kept referring to the withdrawal as "redeployment to an off-shore situation" as if the British troops were soon going to return to peacekeeping duties in

Leading article, page 13

territory 16 miles away on the slopes to the Bekaa Valley. Muslim troops of the Lebanese army's Sixth Brigade, including its Shia Muslim commanding officer, announced yesterday that they were defecting to the side of the militias, while throughout west Beirut, snipers continued to operate in three separate residential areas.

President Gemayel, reported stunned by President Reagan's decision to withdraw the Marines to the Sixth Fleet - the word "redeployment" has carried no weight here - remained silent for the third consecutive day, confined for some of the time to the shellproof bunker beneath his palace at Baabda.

Many of the thousand or so British residents in Lebanon live in west Beirut and so far they have been given no advice by the Embassy to evacuate the city. The British troops at Hadeth, who were on the wrong side of the front line from the west of the city would have been of little use in such an operation, should it prove necessary.

British residents here are well used to the familiar dangers of shelling and gunmen, but in two days, the Embassy, all of whose telephone lines have now failed, has done no more than tell British citizens to keep "a low profile" and remain indoors whenever possible - not the advice perhaps best suited in a country on the point of destroying itself in civil war.

In fact, a few British troops are still in Lebanon, guarding the armoured vehicles and jeeps

Continued on back page, col 6



Ready to go: US marines cheering the news

Howe urged to take diplomatic initiative

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Senior Conservative MPs yesterday pressed Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to take the diplomatic initiative on Lebanon, after Commons statement on the withdrawal of the British contingent from Beirut.

But Sir Geoffrey, who said that there was no immediate prospect of a return of the troops from HMS Reliant, told the House. "In the last resort, it is only those people in that country who can find their own salvation."

He also told one of his own backbenchers that it was precisely because of anxiety that there should be no bloodshed and slaughter in Beirut that the Government had agreed to contribute to the multinational force.

Nevertheless, the vacuum left by the withdrawal and the collapse of British credibility and influence were repeatedly and forcefully emphasized.

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, and Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, both asked about alternative government policy. Mr Pym said, "It is vital now

that a major diplomatic effort is put in train to try to prevent any more serious events taking place."

Mr du Cann demanded: "What policies are we now going to adopt? What initiatives are we going to take, either in conjunction with our allies or through the United Nations?"

Further to the right of the party, Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion) and Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds) warned of the threat to Western credibility and influence in the Middle East after the withdrawal. The Foreign Secretary said that there should be no erosion of western influence.

He also appeared to endorse the repeated suggestion from his own side that the American element of the multinational force had been too partisan in its actions.

Mr Denis Healey, who welcomed the belated withdrawal, said the decision represented the collapse of US policy, yet President Reagan threatened even wider and more indiscriminate intervention.

Reagan steps up strategy of naval bombardment

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan's policy of stepping up bombardment of Syrian-backed positions, with increased naval and air fire, began yesterday morning when the battleship New Jersey opened up on targets firing on the American Ambassador's residence in east Beirut.

Once the 1,500 Marines are off Lebanon soil, the United States will feel free to continue the attacks, so long as President Gemayel sings to power.

The first 500 Marines will be out of Beirut within 30 days and the remainder will be withdrawn "depending on the situation on the ground". Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, will submit a detailed plan to President Reagan today or tomorrow.

Having ordered the Marines to the haven of naval ships close to the coast, Mr Reagan has presented the real possibility of stepping up military action in support of Mr Gemayel's embattled government. Many Administration officials believe, however, that he may not survive long enough for that to happen.

Under the new rules of engagement, US troops can return fire if Beirut is under attack - an assertive military role compared with current rules limiting action to the defence of the multinational forces.

It puts America squarely on the side of President Gemayel

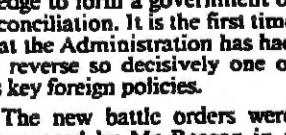
Mr Weinberger: Detailed plan for withdrawal

while he attempts to fulfil his pledge to form a government of reconciliation. It is the first time that the Administration has had to reverse so decisively one of its key foreign policies.

The new battle orders were announced by Mr Reagan in a written statement to reporters after his arrival at the Point Mugu naval air station near Santa Barbara, California, where the President was beginning what is intended to be a five-day holiday.

His absence from Washington has been severely criticized by Democrats. Some of his own senior aides counselled against staying away, but he has proved typically strong-willed about his holiday time.

For such a sweeping policy statement, it was unusual for



Mr Weinberger: Detailed plan for withdrawal

TV-am's future hangs on acceptance of job cuts

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The future of the commercial breakfast television station TV-am now hangs on last-ditch talks with the journalists' and technicians' unions over up to 60 redundancies.

A three-and-a-half-hour meeting of the company's board yesterday decided that a £2m rescue package will not go ahead without the redundancies, which have been rejected by the National Union of Journalists and the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians.

Without the money the company, which has already told union officials that it cannot guarantee staff wages from last week, seems certain to be the first commercial television station to go into liquidation.

Talks between representatives of the NUJ, which has been asked for 20 redundancies, and the ACTAT, which has rejected a request for 40 job cuts, resumed last night and were due to continue today.

There was some optimism that a settlement may be reached with the NUJ involving 15 unfilled journalistic posts, but the rift with the ACTAT, which is due to meet tomorrow, is thought to be more serious.

Behind the scenes, page 2

Queen among mourners for Duke of Beaufort

The Queen and other members of the Royal Family led hundreds of mourners at a funeral service at Badminton yesterday for the Duke of Beaufort.

The service for the tenth Duke, who died on Sunday aged 83, was marked by his lack of ceremony. Members of the Royal Family stood alongside huntsmen and estate workers at the graveside as he was laid to rest in a tiny churchyard after the parish church service.

The Queen and the Queen Mother went forward to comfort the first Duke's Duchess, aged 87, as she left the graveside on the arm of the new Duke, David Somerset, aged 55, a London art dealer.

The village of Badminton was in mourning and more than 250 crowded the tiny church of St Michael and All Saints, which adjoins Badminton House. Only the baying of the

Beaufort Hunt broke the silence at the start of the service, conducted by the Duke's chaplain, the rev Thomas Thomson.

At the Duke's request the service consisted only of three of his favourite hymns and the 121st psalm. There was no address. It was also at his request that so many of his estate workers, tenants and friends were present.

In spite of his many military connections, there were no uniforms inside the church, except for those of community Police Constable Michael Earl, from the near by village of Acton Turville, a close friend for many years, and Trumpeter Sergeant Alan Webb, of the Royal Gloucester Hussars.

After the half-hour service the coffin was carried to the adjoining churchyard. It was draped with the Duke's personal standard while a similar flag fluttered at half-mast above the main house.

The main funeral party was led by the Dowager Duchess of the Duke of Somerset, second cousin to the Duke.

The Queen and the Queen Mother were followed by the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips. All the Royal Family were dressed in black. The Queen in a long black coat and black leather boots, the Princess of Wales with a wide-brimmed stiff hat, three-quarter length coat and matching skirt, and Princess Anne with a black cap in a hunting style.

Also in the royal party were the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

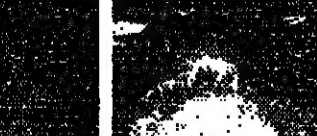
As the trumpeter played Reveille, the Duke was buried alongside his parents and grandparents. The Dowager Duchess then walked forward a few paces to stand alone as the Last Post was sounded. Seconds later the Queen and Queen Mother went forward to comfort her.

Outside the church more than 300 mourners were in a queue to hear the service relayed by loudspeaker. To them and all the villagers the Duke was affectionately known as Master because of his long association with hunting.

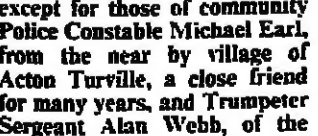
Memorial services will be held in Bristol, Gloucester and London.



The Queen, the Princess of Wales, and Princess Michael of Kent mourning the Duke of Beaufort yesterday



The Duke of Beaufort



The Duke of Beaufort

Safety of GCHQ 'ensured by ban'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, firmly refused to give ground yesterday to both Conservative and Labour critics of the Government's decision to ban trade union membership at the communications headquarters at Cheltenham.

During more than two hours of intense questioning from the Commons Select Committee on Employment, he repeatedly emphasized that the approach taken by the Government towards ensuring freedom from disruption at the GCHQ, and preventing staff from being subject to pressures to take part in industrial action, was the only way of meeting its full objectives and the "safest and surest" way of doing so.

Although there was to be a further meeting with the unions, and there would be no purpose in having it "if our minds were totally and irrevocably closed", Sir Geoffrey said it would be very difficult to dislodge the Government from its present position.

Members of the committee detected no hints from his uncompromising performance that he had any intention of changing his stance.

The Foreign Secretary revealed that during the day of action in March 1981, parts of GCHQ were "virtually shut down" and that in 1980 informal attempts were made to get a no-strike or no-disruption agreement at GCHQ.

He added that proposals for action along the lines taken by the Government were considered by ministers, including Lord Carrington, then the Foreign Secretary, in 1981 and 1982. The Times reported on Monday that Lord Carrington had no recollection of any such proposal.

Yesterday's hearing opened with allegations from Mr John Gornall, Conservative MP for Hendon North, that Conservative MPs were being "nobled" by Government business managers seeking to manipulate the inquiry.

Mr Gornall was angry about the decision of the Foreign Office to ban Mr Jack Hart, the leading union official at GCHQ, from giving evidence and which he alleged was interference by Government.

Sir Geoffrey made no comment on the allegation of Government pressure but defended the ban on Mr Hart, which also covers Mr Peter Maychurch, the director of GCHQ.

Sir Geoffrey, and Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, who also gave evidence, were adamant throughout that the Government's action was not part of a wider campaign to introduce similar measures outside the field of security and intelligence.

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Leading article, page 13

Cancer 'key' found in cells

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists have made one of the most significant advances in recent years in understanding how cancer is caused. A new discovery, announced yesterday, is likely to influence cancer research internationally, though immediate clinical applications are discounted.

A team led by the Imperial Cancer Fund in London in collaboration with scientists in Israel and the United States, has found a new link between hormone-like substances called growth factors, which are necessary for normal cell growth, and cancer producing genes, known as oncogenes.

The team's findings are published in today's issue of the scientific journal, *Nature*. An editorial in the magazine says the research is "as dramatic as it will be important for research on normal and abnormal growth of cells" and describes the work as "another leap forward in understanding the basis of cancer".

The discovery was described yesterday as "very significant" by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which is usually very cautious in its comments. "The implications for new basic research studies are enormous," according to the ICRF scientists.

Growth factors are small proteins which act as "keys" to turn on the normal growth of cells by fitting into "locks" on the surface of cells. Different types of cells, such as brain or liver cells, can have different sets of locks and keys to control their growth.

The new research suggests that a virus may be able to bypass the need for a key and can deliver a continuous message to grow with unlimited power.

It suggests that a defective "lock" is part of the mechanism whereby an animal virus can produce leukaemia in chickens.

The discovery is direct consequence of advances made by the same ICRF team last July, which focused attention on the relationship between oncogenes and cancer. The team has been led by Dr Michael Waterfield, head of the molecular biology department.

The ICRF considered the work important enough to invest £500,000 last April into an oncogene research laboratory.

Yesterday Dr Waterfield, aged 42, was in Israel where he discussed the findings with scientists at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, particularly Dr Joseph Schlessinger, the chief Israeli collaborator in the research. He has decided to avoid personal publicity following publication of the research.

A spokesman for the Weizmann Institute said: "The discovery is seen here as very

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SAA SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

Inquiry clears advice bureaux of bias and urges extra funds

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux are an invaluable national asset, provide exceptionally good advice for money, and should have their funding increased, an independent review of the bureaux, commissioned by the Government, has concluded.

The inquiry, chaired by Sir Douglas Lovelock, was set up after Dr (now Sir) Gerard Vaughan, the Minister at the Department of Trade responsible for the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, made allegations of political bias against the organization, and quoted the example of Mrs Joan Ruddock, a bureau worker in Reading, who is also chairman of CND. He later withdrew that allegation.

The review recommends that funding of the national association should be increased by £1m, £900,000 of that on a recurrent basis. That would restore the real value of its grant from central government, allow improvements in its management structure and boost the funds of the local bureaux whose dedicated and competent workforce who are largely volunteers, have earned widespread respect, the inquiry says. The report says it found "relatively few and relatively

minor" instances where bureaux had failed to be politically impartial, after allegations that bureaux had become left-wing and were acting as local campaigning pressure groups.

The incidents were "relatively minor", the exception rather than the rule, and needed to be kept in perspective. The national association needed to ensure, however, that they did not recur, and the association needed to draw up



Sir Gerard Vaughan: Allegation withdrawn

clearer guidelines on how far it should attempt to influence social policies and services.

The association should avoid "campaigning", particularly on issues that fell within party politics, but it was right and proper for it to draw the authorities' attention to the facts, with reasoned argument for change, where that was based on bureaux experiences.

Sir Douglas said yesterday that he hoped the review team's report "if nothing else, will lay the Gerard Vaughan ghost to rest."

Sir Gerard had not submitted any evidence to the review team, Sir Douglas said, although he had "half expected him to", and the inquiry had examined only specific instances put to it, rather than try to chase up "half-references and oblique misgivings".

The review team quotes three examples for criticism: the display of a sticker saying "Fight Tebbit's Law with the TUC" in a South Wales advice centre, the production of a circular on coroner's investigations, and the circulation of a report produced by a law centre on social security investigators which described them as "super snoopers".

Damaged child wins £220,760

Johanna Mitchell, aged four, who will never be able to speak or walk because of an accident before she was born, was awarded £214,000 in damages in the High Court yesterday. With interest, the final award will be £220,760.

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones said that the child suffered "catastrophic" brain damage because of negligence at the hospital where she was born. He added that the irreversible damage has left her "a sad and pathetic picture. She will always need help."

The girl cannot walk but moves around her home by rolling on her knees. She cannot speak but makes sounds. She cannot learn sign language because she has no control over her limbs.

Although she will suffer no pain as she grows up she will suffer, the judge said. Her vision and hearing are normal and she is of normal intelligence and has a keen awareness of what is going on around her. "In time she will become more and more aware of her own disability."

He added: "Her intelligence is such that she will be aware of her disabilities and contrast her position with other normal people. She will undoubtedly suffer because of her awareness, more than someone who has no awareness."

She was learning a form of signalling and the computer age might help her to communicate, the judge added. But she would be incapable of normal social intercourse. "She can understand what is said to her, but will never be able to respond."

The girl is cared for by her mother, Mrs Joyce Mitchell, aged 27, at her home in St John's Close, Leatherhead, Surrey. She gave up her job as an office clerk to look after her.

The girl's parents are divorced but her father, Mr Brian Mitchell, who works for British Airways, is also devoted to her and helps.

Mrs Mitchell went into Ashford Hospital, Surrey, to have Johanna, her first child in March, 1979. Complications set in and oxygen to the unborn baby was cut off.

The brain damage was a direct consequence of that failure which, although falling within the bounds of understandable human error, was still negligence, the judge said.

The damages were awarded against Hounslow and Spelthorne Health Authority, responsible for the hospital, which had denied liability.

Speed limit rises for coaches and lorries

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Speed limits for coaches and lorries will go up by 10 mph on dual carriageway roads from April, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary of State in the Department of Transport, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The maximum on motorways remains 70 mph but on dual carriageway roads the limit goes up from 50 to 60 mph for coaches and smaller lorries and from 40 to 50 mph for heavy lorries.

The move will be criticized by transport unions, which have been pressing for lower rather than higher limits for coaches, and also by the railways because it will increase the competition from lorries and coaches for British Rail freight and InterCity passenger traffic.

Express coaches have bitten heavily into British Rail's traffic since the Transport Act of 1980 freed them to compete, and the new limit will give them a further boost in the form of faster inter-city timing in competition with trains.

The government view is that

NEW SPEED LIMITS (existing limits in brackets)

	M-ways	Dual carways	Other roads
Private cars	70	70	60
Buses and coaches	70	60 (50)	50
Light lorries	70	60 (40-50)	50
Heavy lorries	60	50 (30-40)	40

existing speed limits have been outdated by the technical development of coaches and lorries, as a result of which the limits are widely ignored.

The police apparently take the view that the new limits, being more realistic and acceptable to drivers, will be easier to enforce. Mrs Chalker is to meet the Home Office shortly to press for stricter enforcement of coaches and lorries on trunk roads.

New regulations to reduce motorway spray from heavy lorries in wet weather were also announced yesterday. More effective mudguards and absorbent material will become mandatory on new lorries from the spring of next year.

Bank opens longer to help demand

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Success in winning new business has forced Yorkshire Bank, the Leeds-based clearing bank, to extend its opening hours. From April 2, it will keep branches open for an extra 45 minutes each day.

Most bank branches in Britain are open for business from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Yorkshire branches will be open from 9.15am to 4.00pm. Initially 70 branches will be involved, with the other 140 coming into line by the spring of 1985.

With the exception of Barclays, which reintroduced Saturday opening at about 400 branches in 1982, Yorkshire is the first bank to make any significant change in hours since all the banks abolished Saturday opening in 1967.

But whereas the Barclays move was to attract more business and compete with the building societies, the change at Yorkshire is of necessity.

The need for improved opening hours was recommended in a National Consumer Council report on banking services recently.

MPs clash over role of film censors

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, clashed with MPs yesterday over the role of the British Board of Film Censors in regulating distribution of video recordings.

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Castle Point, said at the committee session of the Video Recording Bill that the board had presided over a gradual decline in standards, and he wanted to see it given clearer guidelines. He was supported by Mr Robert MacLennan, Social Democratic MP for Caithness and Sutherland.

Ripper damages will not be paid

The Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, yesterday was granted an automatic discharge from bankruptcy in five years' time. As a result two survivors of his attacks and the mother of his youngest victim will not receive damages awarded against him in the High Court.

Mrs Maureen Long, of Bradford who was awarded £8,500 and Miss Marilyn Moore, of Leeds, who was to receive £10,500, are entitled to criminal injuries compensation, but Jayne MacDonald's mother, Mrs Irene MacDonald, of Leeds, who was owed £6,700, will receive nothing.

Record overseas mail to BBC

The BBC's overseas broadcasts last year stimulated record correspondence of 450,000 letters, 23 per cent more than in 1982, leading the corporation to believe that its regular international audience of 100 million may be increasing.

Mail from Poland has risen from 800 letters in 1982 to more than 5,500. Most of the new mail came from Africa, although those in response to the Turkish and French services doubled.

City woken by nuclear alert

Coventry's four-minute nuclear alert siren sounded for about 30 seconds at 6.30 am yesterday when an accident occurred at the city's police headquarters.

The siren was heard within a 10-mile area. A police inspector was demonstrating the equipment when the fail-safe system failed to operate.



Going down: Anthony James's canoe drops from the parapet



Coming up: Mr James, shortly after surfacing

'Safety' stunt makes a bigger splash

Saying he was practising a safety technique, Mr Anthony James, aged 20, a trainee surveyor, yesterday balanced his canoe on the parapet of a bridge in the centre of York and then launched himself into the turbulent floodwaters of the River Ouse, 20ft below.

Mr James, a keen canoeist for the past six years, has travelled to Spain and Austria in search of "wild water" to test his skills.

Yesterday he found the most ideal conditions in his home city, as 13ft of floodwater turned the river into a torrent.

"I just could not resist the opportunity of trying something a little different," Mr James, of Pulley Drive, York, said. "It looks dangerous but it's fun. However, you have to know what you are doing and only expert canoeists should have a go."

Lack of interest curtails school trips

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Hundreds of French and West German school children will be unable to take part in exchanges with British children this year because of a lack of interest on the British side, according to an organization which arranges them.

Dragons International, based in Oxford, which fixes 1,000 exchanges a year, says there are

two reasons. First, there is little evidence to suggest that the British are any less insular in their outlook than they were 20 or 30 years ago. Second, there is still little incentive to learn a foreign language as one can get by in English almost anywhere in the world and the number of jobs requiring a foreign language remains small.

Mr Colin Galloway, director of the organization, said that he would be short of 400 to 500 children this year for Easter and summer exchanges.

Dragons International organizes individual and group exchange visits for school children aged 11 to 18 in three countries, with costs starting at £79.

Barge man buys Gravesend pier

The freehold of the Town Pier, Gravesend, was bought for £75,000 at a London auction yesterday by a Gravesend man because of the memories it evoked.

Mr Frank Cheeseman, a former bargemaster and now managing director of his own river barge company, played round the pier as a boy.

Consumers seek law to protect deposits

By Robin Young

Consumer group representatives yesterday met Mr Alexander Fletcher, the minister responsible for consumer affairs, to demand legislation to protect customers who have paid in advance from losing money when firms go out of business.

The National Federation of Consumer Groups says that the hundreds of complaints of such losses received each year by trading standards authorities represent only "the tip of the iceberg."

In a report presented to Mr Fletcher, who is Under Secretary of State in the Department of Trade and Industry, the federation says that consumers have lost money paying in advance for goods and services as diverse as carpets, crash helmets, garden sheds, jewelry, holiday travel.

The federation delegation presented Mr Fletcher with the catalogue of a mail-order concern, predicting that the company would crash within two years leaving customer's prepaid orders unfilled. It also cited the losses suffered by customers in the failures of Saker Airways, Eastern Carpets, Guildhall Gardening Products, the Magic Bus holiday company and the Tartan Cottage clothing concern.

"The losses borne by people of modest means amount to untold thousands of pounds every year," Mr Alec Samuels, QC, a member of the federation's legislation committee, said.

Mr Samuels said it was wrong that consumers' prepayments should be used by traders as working capital. "Solicitors and estate agents are not allowed to use customers' money in this way, and reputable traders do not do so. Traders who need people's money in advance to stay in business should not be trading anyway. They are gambling with other people's money."

Prepayments: Protecting Consumers' Deposits (National Federation of Consumer Groups, 12 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, LS2).

"MRS THATCHER?... HULLO?... MRS THATCHER?"

We appear to have been cut off. Guillotined! And just while the Bill to sell off one of the nation's greatest assets, British Telecom, was in mid-debate.

At least the House of Lords now has the opportunity to view just how much is at stake and to consider the implications on the nation's behalf.

It doesn't take a clairvoyant to recognise that British Telecom is at risk. A risk to be involuntarily shared by employees, prospective shareholders and, above all, by customers.

As American experience demonstrates, profit expectations may be expected to swamp BT's public obligations. The results? Pressure to minimise loss-making services (home phones, kiosks and facilities for the handicapped) and an estimated 750,000 unable to afford rising charges.

In the face of commercial criteria, BT's research and development appear destined for domination by short term market needs. The price? Loss of Britain's leadership in world telecommunications.

The telecommunications equipment supply industry will face increasing uncertainty. Future reality is a sharp rise in imports and an erosion of the UK domestic market share.

The much vaunted freedom from government control has the hollowest ring. A quango, the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) will govern in government's place with powers of regulation and constraint that will exceed the present regime and breed bureaucracy.

In its brave new privatised world, British Telecom must seek OFTEL's sanction before introducing a product or service that someone — anyone? — deems 'unfairly competitive'.

The Corporation will be expected to lease out its networks — the heartland of its profitability — to competitors. A recipe, in equal measure, for managerial schizophrenia, employee insecurity and shareholder disenchantment.

Major cosmetic surgery is having to be applied to transform a natural and successful public enterprise into an artificially attractive private concern. The £1.25 billion pensions deficit has already had to be shunted into a shell company siding. Is there yet another privatisation flop in the offing?

British Telecom's employees are accused of trying to preserve the past. If preservation means helping to introduce technically advanced services available to all, the maintenance of BT's viability and a secure future for the equipment supply industry, then so be it.

For anyone with the public's interest genuinely at heart it is all too clear that British Telecom is an integral part of the nation's technological heritage and future economic stability. It is as much a social as a commercial resource and the balance between those interests can only be protected from exploitation by leaving a liberalised British Telecom where it rightfully belongs: in public ownership.

For the report 'What Future for British Telecom', prepared by the organisation representing virtually all of British Telecom's managers,

SOCIETY OF TELECOM EXECUTIVES 102/104 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2UF

Holiday rivals tussle for tourists' money

By John Witherow

Package tour operators were criticized by the English Tourist Board yesterday for challenging its claim that holidays in Britain were half the price of those abroad.

Mr Michael Montague, board chairman, had issued figures showing that English hotels were considerably cheaper than those in Spain and other prime destinations for the British holidaymakers.

But Thomson Holidays responded by claiming that it was cheaper to fly to the Costa Brava or Majorca than take the train to Blackpool or Torquay.

Mr Montague, who has just launched a campaign to entice more Britons to holiday at home, is determined to improve further on the English tourist industry's recovery last year when revenue rose by 10 per cent.

He produced a list of hotels where prices for a family of four were half those of hotels in Spain's cheapest resorts.

For one week in Blackpool they varied between £144 and £320 for half board, excluding transport. In comparison, a

week with Thomson in Lloret de Mar, travelling by coach, would cost a family of four £350 in July or August full board.

Intasun, the country's second biggest operator, whose prices are very competitive with Thomson, pointed out that the cost of living in Spain, because of the weakness of the peseta, was considerably lower than in Britain. Drinks and food were approximately half the price, it said.

"The United Kingdom can never compete on quality combined with price," a spokesman for Thomson said. He remained confident that the tour operators, which have cut prices from last year, would continue to take a larger share of the market. Within three years, he predicted, more Britons would holiday abroad than stay in this country.

Tourism is none the less still an important industry in Britain. In the first nine months of last year revenue rose to £3,375m. Towns such as Eastbourne earned £65m from visitors and gained 12,000 jobs.

PARLIAMENT February 8 1984

Urgent diplomatic action needed on Lebanon

MIDDLE EAST

Explaining that with the recent deterioration in the situation in Lebanon it had become impossible for the British contingent to the multinational force to fulfil its role in street patrols in Beirut and providing an impartial force for the ceasefire talks, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, reported to the Commons that the major part of the British troops had been successfully moved to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Bellatrix* stationed off the Lebanese coast. They would remain there until the situation became clearer.

He said danger to the contingent had been greatly heightened. It had caused a high reputation among all Lebanese as an impartial force and had carried out its tasks in Beirut with exemplary courage and efficiency, (Cheers)

The British troops had played an important part in contributing to stability in the Beirut area and providing an opportunity for political reconciliation. It was a tragedy that this opportunity had not been seized.

Sir Geoffrey Howe went on: We continue to have very prominently in our minds the safety of British residents in the Beirut area. I am glad to be able to report that I have received no reports of any casualties.

For those British residents who may wish to leave appropriate arrangements are being put in hand. British Embassy staff are safe and well and their position is being kept under close review.

The need for the restoration of stability, sovereignty and independence to Lebanon remains of the highest importance. We shall stay in close touch with our multinational force partners, with the Lebanese Government and with all those who can help in this process. If needless bloodshed is to be avoided, a supreme effort must now be made by all the parties to settle their differences by compromise.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on Foreign Affairs, said much of the British troops. It was long overdue.

But many of us (he continued) are disturbed at the Government's failure to organize the evacuation of British civilians, particularly women and children, who wish to

leave, especially as it is five days since the Government began to plan the evacuation of the military personnel.

It is the duty of the British Government to protect British civilians in these dangerous situations to the utmost of its ability.

Did the Government receive a request for withdrawal of the British troops from President Gemayel as President Reagan says he did?

Does the Government recognize that withdrawal of the multinational force from Beirut represents the collapse of American policy in the Lebanon? Yet there are so far no signs that the lessons have been learnt. Indeed, President Reagan yesterday threatened even wider and more indiscriminate intervention from his naval and air forces offshore.

If any profit is to be derived from the Lebanon tragedy the concerned must recognize two lessons. First, there can be no internal settlement which does not reflect the fact that Lebanon now has a majority of Muslims.

Second, there can be no external security for the Lebanon which does not abrogate the agreement with Israel, imposed on Lebanon by American pressure last year and which does not recognize the Syrian desire, and indeed interest, in security through a friendly Lebanon on its frontier.

An even greater danger threatens from a massive escalation of the war in the Gulf in the coming weeks, if not days. Will the Foreign Secretary seek Western talks with the Soviet Government to ensure that the super powers are not dragged into direct military confrontation with each other against the will of both by the action of third parties that they cannot control?

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, asked how many British civilians were in Beirut and whether the Foreign Secretary felt that the Lebanon-Israel agreement should be ended.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The view we have made clear, and which I made clear during my recent visit to Damascus, was that the May 17 agreement, while it had a legitimate objective at the outset, should not be allowed to become an obstacle to the settlement.

Some time it should be abrogated while others adopt a slightly different approach. The important thing is that without avoiding fulfilment of its original objectives, we must not allow it to stand in the way of some new enlarger or extended agreement which would fulfil the objectives properly.

Our best estimate of the British population is that there are 1,800 UK nationals exempt from immigration control, 800 subject to control, and 180 citizens of Commonwealth countries for whom we are responsible.

It is not possible to say how many may already have left without notifying the embassy. It is difficult to say how many of those remaining might wish to be evacuated.

Mr Julian Avey (Brighton, Pavilion, C): Withdrawal of the multinational force represents a serious setback for Western influence throughout the Middle East. Would he take the initiative in consulting urgently with our other partners in Europe and the United States, to make sure that this collapse of our influence does not extend to South Asia and the Gulf where the threat is increasing every day?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The failure to achieve reconciliation is much to be regretted. It is important we should not allow this to lead to further erosion of the Western position. Mr Enoch Powell (Down South, OUP): Why has it taken the Foreign Office so long to anticipate things which were so widely foreseen by others?

How long will the United Kingdom continue to be dragged on the coattails of the disastrous misadventures of the United States policy?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I cannot share the way in which he approaches the policies of the United States which, in my view, are the closest, and most important ally.

The US told us of their decision in advance and we told our partners of our own decision. Each country considered the position of its own contingent in the light of its national interest.

Mr Edward de Caeste (Taunton, C): What policies are we now going to adopt, what initiative are we going to take either in conjunction with our allies, or through the United Nations?

If we are to achieve this desirable result, some form of international peace-keeping force will have to go into the Lebanon?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We have been proposing for a United Nations force for a number of months. The Prime Minister and I have discussed this on more than one occasion with the UN Secretary-General. He has been in touch with the United Nations, to be in touch again today.

The deployment of a UN force would require assent from a wide

range of countries as well as a request from the government of the Lebanon.

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* The Multiple Sclerosis Society, FREEPOST The Mander Road Fulham London
 SW6 5LP Tel 01 381 4162 Fax 01 381 4165
☐ Enclose a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society
☐ Please send me the Society's leaflet on managing symptoms and benefits
☐ Please debit my Access Card. Barclaycard, delete as applicable the sum of £ _____
 Cardholder's _____
 Signature _____
 Donations accepted on request

Name _____
 Address _____

MS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
 We can only find the cure if we find the funds

7/74

Lebanon: World holds its breath and waits to see what happens next

Jerusalem Cabinet holds crisis session

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

The Israeli Cabinet was summoned into emergency session yesterday to review the implications of the worsening crisis in Lebanon, which has effectively torpedoed many of the wider aims for which the costly invasion of June 6, 1982, was originally launched.

In an effort to maintain secrecy the meeting was ruled to be a session of the Ministerial Defence Committee, the proceedings of which are classified under Israeli law. Israeli sources said later that no operative decisions had been taken and a further Cabinet discussion was due on Sunday.

A majority are believed to be firmly opposed to any further Israeli incursions north of the Litani River, either to protect Lebanese Christians or to try to shore up the crumbling regime of President Amin Gemayel. Most politicians here regard its replacement by a more pro-Syrian government as inevitable.

It is understood that the Israelis have not ruled out air or sea attacks in support of US military moves. But most ministers are anxious to concentrate attention on consolidating security arrangements with the help of local militias in southern Lebanon, in order to facilitate a further pullback there, leading to an eventual Israeli withdrawal.

This approach is opposed by Professor Yuval Neeman, the hawkish Minister of Science and leader of the small Tachin Party. He predicted yesterday that recent events in Beirut would necessitate a permanent Israeli Army presence in southern Lebanon. But he is in a minority inside the coalition Cabinet.

The view of the main Labour opposition was voiced by its daily paper, *Davar*, which stated: "We should not get involved in what is going on in Beirut. What we did not understand in June 1982 we must understand now. Israel must safeguard its borders irrespective of the identity and character of the governments in the neighbouring capitals."

Before the Cabinet session officials were trying to disguise their disappointment at the retreat of the multinational force by laying emphasis on President Reagan's decision to sanction wider firepower for the Sixth Fleet. "We do not see the United States as having closed a chapter," said one.

Earlier this week the gravity with which Israel regards the decision to pull back the Marines and other contingents in the multinational force was revealed by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, when he spoke to visiting American journalists.

"I think that the departure of the Marines, or the French, or Italian or British troops from Beirut is a problem, a very important political issue for all the Western world. It is not an Israeli problem," he told them.

Mr Shamir was pressed to outline what these might be. "If countries in our area will see that in Lebanon the Western powers have been defeated in this confrontation with Syria - a Soviet protectorate - they will draw their conclusions about their positions, about their relations with Eastern and Western powers," he said.

Israelis kill dog-warrior by mistake

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv

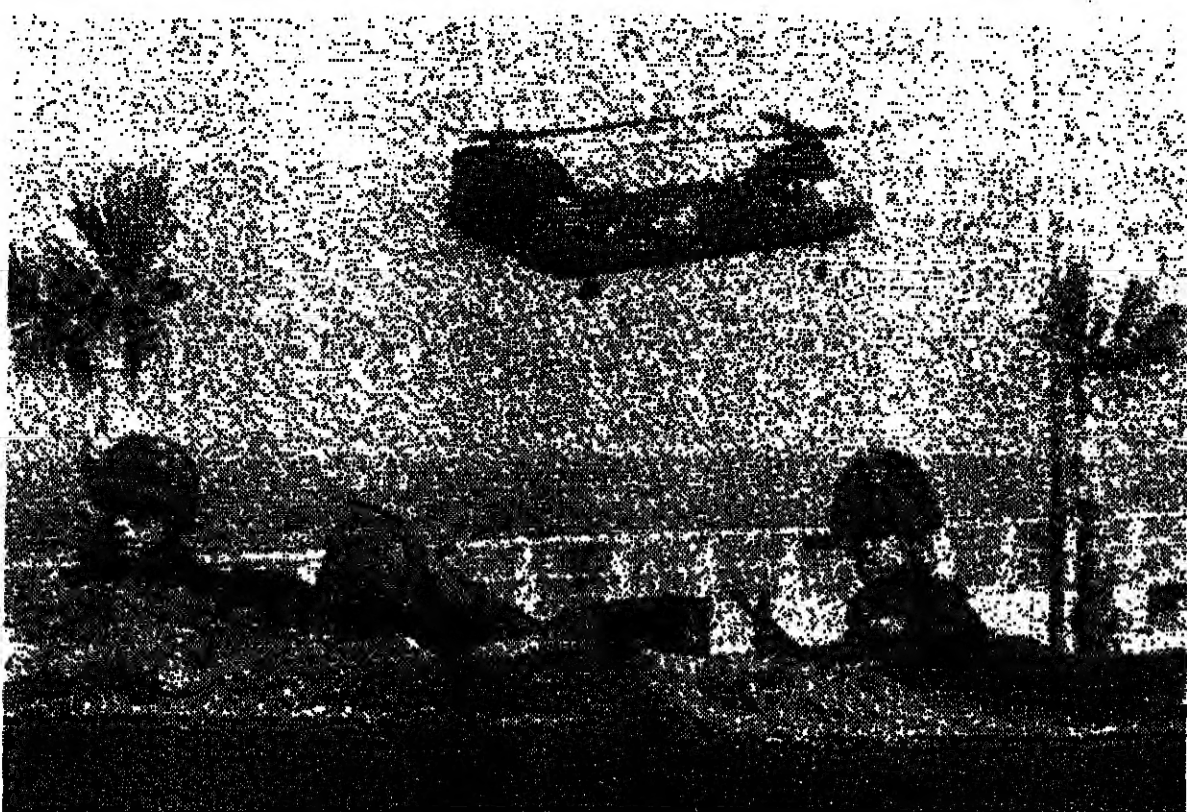
An Israeli Government ranger hunting stray dogs in the occupied Gaza Strip was shot dead yesterday by Israeli soldiers who apparently mistook him for an Arab terrorist.

An Army spokesman said soldiers patrolling the Beit Lahia area near the northern coast of the strip heard a shot and suspected terrorists were operating in the vicinity.

Minutes later, the report said, another shot was heard and soldiers saw a Jeep partly concealed by a rise in the terrain but with gun barrels visible. They fired at the Jeep and it began reversing.

The vehicle turned out to belong to the Israeli Nature Preservation Authority's "green patrol".

Mr Arye Dukomatchy, aged 23, was killed and his companion was injured in the shoulder.



Prelude to pull-out: Marines on guard as a helicopter ferries US Embassy dependants to safety from Beirut and gunmen directing traffic outside the French Embassy

Reagan U-turn silences his critics and boosts re-election chances

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

"The situation in Lebanon is difficult, frustrating and dangerous. But that is no reason to turn our backs on friends and cut and run," said President Reagan in his regular weekly broadcast last Saturday, reinforcing his statement in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* the previous day that he had no intention of pulling US Marines out of Lebanon.

Three days later, in what would appear in effect to be a complete about-face, the President announced that the Marines are to be "redeployed" on US naval vessels off the Lebanese coast, thereby signalling the end of their controversial 16-month peace-keeping mission.

The abruptness with which Mr Reagan changed course caught both his critics and supporters by surprise, even though it had been widely expected that the Marines would be removed from their foxholes around Beirut airport during the course of this year.

Paradoxically, what would appear to be the most serious foreign policy setback of his administration is certain to strengthen Mr Reagan's political position within the US.

Lebanon is the issue on which he is most vulnerable and which most threatens his chances of reelection in November. Opinion polls have shown mounting public disquiet about the continued US presence in Beirut and the danger of more American lives being lost.

On Capitol Hill the Administration's attempts to maintain bipartisan support for its policy were collapsing as Democrats prepared to table resolutions in both houses calling for the prompt and orderly withdrawal of the Marine contingent.

Within hours of his announcement on Tuesday Democratic and Republican Congressmen as well as all of the eight Democratic presidential candidates had voiced their approval of the decision. As Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic front-runner, grudgingly conceded: "Although very late, I applaud his action because I believe it will save American lives."

The decision was undoubtedly a painful one for Mr Reagan. For him the presence not only formed a central part of his policy to restore peace and territorial integrity to Lebanon but also came to symbolize his Administration's attempts to revive American strength and prestige around the world.

However the role of the Marines and the other members of the multi-national force had changed significantly since they were deployed in Beirut in the wake of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres in September 1982. Initially, after the removal of Palestinian guerrillas from Lebanon, they were supposed to help the new government of President Amin Gemayel transform his country into a stable, pro-Western state at peace with Israel.

There was no expectation that US armed forces would become involved in hostilities. President Reagan said when explaining why he did not believe the War Powers Act applied to his decision to send the troops to Lebanon.

However, the force soon came to be seen as siding with one of the factions in the protracted Lebanese civil war. As a result the Marines became targets of the dissident forces opposed to President Gemayel "sitting ducks" as Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona described them.

Just whitherable political pawns had become in Lebanon's deadly chess game was horrifyingly demonstrated when the bomb attack on their headquarters last October resulted in 241 Marine deaths.

Shelling by the Sixth Fleet was an act of Banditry and the effect of President Reagan's orders was to "untie the hands of American forces".

Officials have hinted that Moscow might accept a United Nations peacekeeping force to replace the multinational force.

The Soviet tactic has been to allow the Lebanese situation to deteriorate and then to take advantage of Western setbacks by stepping in with a revived version of its Middle East plan, which calls for a conference of all "interested parties", including the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources expect Mr Aliyev to put forward the Soviet solution in Syria next week.

Syria is Moscow's chief ally in the region and has received a stream of armaments over the past year. On the other hand, Moscow has always stopped short of encouraging a Syrian confrontation with Israeli or American forces, for fear of being sucked into the conflict.

Tass said the American pull-out was an attempt to deceive the world, since American forces remained close to Lebanon.

History of the peacekeepers

September 20, 1982: President Reagan orders 800 Marines into west Beirut as part of a reconstituted multinational force to help Lebanese Government maintain order after massacres of Palestinian refugees.

September 26: More than 2,000 French and Italian troops deployed in west Beirut.

September 29: US Marines land in Beirut.

February 1, 1983: Queen's Dragoon Guards begin arriving. British unit is 97 strong.

August 29: Two Marines are first Americans to die in combat since arrival of peacekeeping force, during heavy fighting between Lebanese Army and Shia Muslim militiamen.

September 23: French launch first air strikes against Druze and Syrian positions in Chouf Mountains.

October 23: Suicide bombers attack US and French military headquarters. American death toll from this one attack 241, and the French 58.

December 21: Bomb attack on the French kills one soldier and more than a dozen civilians.

December 23: President Pétain of Italy says his country's 2,100 strong contingent should be withdrawn.

January 2, 1984: French announce switch of 482 troops to United Nations Interim Force (Unifil) in southern Lebanon.

January 17: First contingent of Italian troops to be withdrawn as part of reorganized deployment, cutting numbers to 1,400, arrive in Italy.

Fatalities: American has lost 259 men, France 84 and Italy one. British troops only suffered a few injuries.

Since then the main issue facing American policy-makers has been when and under what circumstances the Marines would be withdrawn. Mr Reagan, supported by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, wanted to avoid hasty action. They hoped if President Gemayel was able to enlarge the area under the control of the American-trained Lebanese Army, a phased and orderly withdrawal would be possible later this year and the MNF could be replaced by some form of United Nations presence.

On the other hand Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and the Pentagon chiefs, who had never wanted to get involved on the ground in Lebanon in the first place, had been pressing for the sort of redeployment which the President has now chosen.

Mr Reagan's abrupt reversal was undoubtedly triggered by the collapse of the Lebanese Government last weekend and the swift seizure of west Beirut by the Muslim militias. It had suddenly become brutally clear that President Gemayel was unable either to broaden the base of his government or to gain military superiority over his Muslim rivals.

Mr Reagan's decision to widen the air and sea role of American naval vessels off the Lebanese coast is intended to maintain a US presence in Lebanon and to be a signal to the Syrians and their Moscow associates that they cannot now expect to carve up the country among themselves.

It is also designed to show moderate Arab states in the region, particularly in the Gulf, that the US is a reliable partner and that they can continue to count on US military and political support.

American dependability will undoubtedly be one of the issues which King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt will have uppermost in their minds when they hold talks with the President in Washington next week.

The Lebanese delegation was composed of mainstream Muslim politicians who are not members of the co-called National Salvation Front, which has been formally coordinating its political and military stance with Syria.

In a brief report on President Assad's meeting with the Lebanese delegation, the press agency said the President emphasized continued Syrian support for Lebanon, its unity and territorial integrity.

Later in the day, the official Syrian radio accused Israel and the United States of planning to attack Syria and the opposition Muslim forces it is supporting in the Bekaa Valley.

There was seen here as a victory for Syria and its allies. In addition to backing opposition political forces in Lebanon, Syria maintains 40,000 troops in the northern and eastern parts of the country.

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French anxious to go home at the earliest opportunity

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France appears to have no immediate intention of withdrawing its 1,240 troops from Beirut, although the Government has left little doubt that it is anxious to do so at the first opportune moment.

President Mitterrand told yesterday's Cabinet meeting that France still wanted the Security Council to take up the situation in Beirut, with a view to replacing the multinational force with a United Nations one.

The Government hoped this time, which was adopted several months ago, would result in concrete development "in the hours or days to come." M. Max Gallo, the government spokesman, said.

No statement was made on the Government's views about possible withdrawal. M. Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, would only say France's position had been clearly explained by President Mitterrand on Tuesday.

The President stated: "I said long ago that I was asking for a relief (of the multinational force) as quickly as possible by an international United Nations force... France does not intend to remain indefinitely in Lebanon."

A total of 84 French soldiers have been killed in Beirut since the multinational force arrived.

ROME: Announcing plans for a phased pull-out of Italian forces from Beirut, Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the Minister of Defence, told senators last night that the withdrawal would not leave a gap in surveillance of Palestinian camps, which was the principal Italian responsibility (Peter Nicholas writes).

"The absolute guarantee is the United Nations and we must try to bring the United Nations to Sabra and Chatila." There were UN forces in southern Lebanon and the Italian Government was asking that some be sent to protect the Palestinian camps, which hold some 15,000 people.

This "protected handover" would have to be carried out quickly and if that were not possible "we must seek other guarantees for leaving the camps in conditions of absolute security, accepting for ourselves to continue only in limited police and health roles for as long as necessary."

Maputo (AP) - Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance, firing rockets, attacked a passenger train at a rural station 56 miles from Maputo, killing six people and wounding 11.

Meanwhile, the Government says at least 109 people have died and 49,000 been made homeless by Cyclone Domoina. More than 31,000 tons of corn and 2,000 tons of beans are needed to replace washed-away crops.

Moscow (Reuters) - A lorry driver put up electric fencing and window guards round his dacha (summer house) after the theft of an alarm clock and killed his 17-year-old son, who did not know of the precautions and tried to open a window. The *Sovetskaya Rossiya* newspaper reported that the driver had been sentenced to a prison camp for manslaughter.

Athens (AFP) - Greek police seized dozens of illegal cassette tapes of "A Message to the Greek People," recorded by Mr George Papadopoulos, the former dictator, who is serving a life sentence in Piraeus. The tape was first played in public during the founding congress of the extreme right-wing Epan party 10 days ago.

Vienna - Romania's Minister for Chemical Industries, Mr George Caranfil, has been dismissed after being accused of responsibility for a serious explosion in an oil refinery near Bucharest on December 7. No details have been given of casualties.

Las Vegas (Reuters) - An RAF Jaguar crashed while on manoeuvres at Nellis air force base near here. In London the Ministry of Defence said that the Pilot, attached to 6th squadron, RAF Coltishall, had been killed.

Fort Lauderdale, Florida (AP) - Mrs. Tully Jones, who worked until her 100th birthday and ignored doctors' advice to stop smoking a pipe, has died aged 113. Her simple rule for longevity was: "Lead to your business."

Berlin (Reuters) - West Berlin Zoon, a five-year-old female panda Tian-Tian, a favourite of the city's animal lovers, died yesterday from a viral intestinal infection despite efforts to save her by six veterinarians.

San Francisco (Reuters) - A funeral home staffed by homosexuals and catering to San Francisco's large gay community has opened here. Its founder, said: "As far as I am aware, we are the only one in the world."

EEC warns of dangers in flying to the sun

Brussels - Holiday flights to the Mediterranean sun are endangered by inadequate air traffic control, faulty spare parts and slack safety rules, according to a report finished yesterday for the European Parliament (Ian Murray writes).

The report pinpoints danger black spots, including the Adriatic coast of Italy, the Naples area, Sicily and Sardinia. It also finds a number of airports lacking in adequate fire-fighting equipment.

The report also suggests there were possibly three times more than the 140 near-misses reported in 1982 - the latest year for which there are full figures - in the skies above the EEC. "In some countries, France and Spain in particular, there are especially high numbers of serious risks."

Botha hope for long ceasefire

Cape Town (AP) - Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said yesterday that a cease-fire is "in practice at this moment" in southern Angola amid a very promising climate for an extended halt in bush warfare.

He told foreign reporters: "Steps are being taken by the South African Government and I believe, the Angolan Government to put into effect a cease-fire for 30 days and I hope beyond."

Church pleads for Chirwas

The Church of Scotland has sent three telegrams to President Hastings Banda of Malawi asking for clemency for Mr Gordon Chirwa, the opposition leader, and his wife Vera, who were sentenced to death last year for treason. A Malawi court has rejected their final appeal. A spokesman for the church in Edinburgh said: "Only Dr Banda is now in a position to save the Chirwas. They have a long association with churchmen from this country."

Train attacked in Mozambique

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Arab diplomat shot dead outside his Paris flat

Paris (AP, Reuters) - A gunman fatally wounded the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to France outside his Paris home yesterday morning.

The Ambassador, Khalifa Ahmed Abdel Aziz Al-Mubarak, died about four hours after the shooting at Saint Anne's Hospital. He was the twelfth diplomat or embassy employee to be assassinated in Paris since December 19, 1974.

Police said that Mr Al-Mubarak, aged 36, was shot in the back of the head as he left the block of flats where he lived at Avenue Charles Floquet, a few hundred yards from the Eiffel Tower. The hospital said the bullet entered deep into the brain and no operation was attempted.

Police said the gunman, described as an "Arab type", fired one shot at the Ambassador and escaped on foot. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

A man was later detained and questioned by detectives at Gare Saint Lazare railway station, but he was released.

On Tuesday gunmen shot dead General Chahim Oveissi, one of the late Shah of Iran's most senior officers, in a Paris street. An anonymous caller telephoned a news organization in London and claimed responsibility on behalf of the Islamic Jihad, a shadowy extremist group.

LONDON: The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, denied yesterday that Iran was responsible for the killing of General Oveissi. But he commented that "General Oveissi had received 'due punishment for his crimes'" (Renter reports).

Leaders of eastern Caribbean countries pressed their case for American help in building a regional defence force when they met Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, here yesterday.

The group wants a permanent "flying squad" equipped with helicopters and fast patrol boats to provide security over a 500-mile arc of the Caribbean from Grenada to St Kitts.

The events in Grenada, which troubled its neighbours and led to the American invasion in October, naturally form a strong part of the islands' case for American assistance. The leaders had a sympathetic hearing from Mr Shultz, but the Americans will want to know more about long-term costs before making any commitment.

Five countries, Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent, signed a regional defence pact in October 1982, and St Kitts-Nevis became a sixth member of the agreement yesterday. Grenada will join after a government is elected.

All the defence pact countries, except Barbados, are members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States which supported the American action in Grenada. Before meeting its

Formula for Greenland's exit approved by EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Conditions for Greenland to leave the EEC were approved by the European Commission in Brussels yesterday. The aim is agreement by the end of next month, in time for the former Danish colony to leave the Community at the beginning of next year. It voted to leave in a referendum nearly two years ago.

Under the proposals, Greenland would be paid about £1m a year to allow EEC boats to fish up to 12,000 tonnes in its waters, roughly the amount they catch there now. For its part, Greenland would have a guaranteed minimum catch.

● Farm cash row: The EEC's financial crisis, which has held up payments of almost £100m to Britain's hill farmers, has led to a dispute between the Treasury and the Ministry of Agriculture (the Press Association reports).

Yesterday a National Farmers' Union delegation saw the Agriculture Minister, Mr Michael Jopling.

The minister is seeking talks with the Treasury, which, it is understood, is blocking payments for fear of breaking EEC rules.

Caribbean seeks 'flying squad'

From Trevor Fishlock, Bridgetown, Barbados

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A film by GILLIAN ARMSTRONG ("My Brilliant Career")

STAR STRUCK

the last film with music to leave an audience filled with this mixture of happiness and sadness

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French £400m package for industrial renewal criticized on all fronts

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Proposals for new social and economic measures, designed to ease the pain of the "reconstruction and modernization" of French industry, were adopted by the Cabinet yesterday. But they have already been widely criticized by unions, employers, and the Socialist Party itself.

The proposals which will form the basis of consultations with the unions over the next three weeks, are expected to cost 5 billion to 6 billion francs (£400m to £500m) this year.

They will affect five main industrial sectors, all facing serious difficulties: steel, coal, shipbuilding, the car industry and telecommunications. Between 10,000 and 15,000 workers may benefit from a paid two-year "retraining leave", proposed for those made redundant in these sectors.

That is far fewer than envisaged when the Government first spoke of its plans last month (after pressure from the unions). M. Pierre Mauroy, Zile Prime Minister, said then that the intention was to carry out industrial "modernization

without redundancies". Hundreds of thousands of workers are expected to lose their jobs over the next few years.

M. Henri Krasucki, the General Secretary of the Communist-led CGT union, said after talks with the Prime Minister earlier this week, that the Government's plans had resolved nothing. No proposals had been made for the creation of jobs, he said, adding that the hopes workers had in a left-wing government were threatened, although not yet wholly lost.

Nothing was irreversible. If workers put forward their views with sufficient force and unity, he believed they would be in a better position to make themselves heard than in the past. The CGT has recently called for a significant increase in industrial action.

M. Edmond Maire, the General Secretary of the Socialist CFDT union, criticized the Government's measures for creating unfair divisions. On the one hand were the five industrial sectors named in the Government's plans, for which

special measures were to be taken, and on the other were the thousands of industries equally threatened but forgotten, he said.

Socialist MPs have expressed concern about the inherent "dualism" in the Government plans. They also wonder where the money is going to come from, given the attempts to cut public spending to reduce inflation and what many believe to be President Mitterrand's irresponsible promise to reduce taxes by the equivalent of 60 billion francs next year.

The zones franchises, modelled in part on Britain's free enterprise zones, which were first envisaged in the Government's plans, have been replaced by much more modest "industrial conversion areas", affecting about a dozen of the hardest-hit areas.

In addition government aid this year to nationalized industries, costing 12.8 billion francs, will be increased by a further billion, while aid to private industry will rise from 5 to 7 billion francs.



Before the launch: Soviet Astronauts Vladimir Soloviyev, Leonid Kizim and Oleg Atkov at a televised press conference

Russia puts three more astronauts into space

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union launched a manned spacecraft yesterday with a crew of three on board. Tass named the crew of Soyuz T-10, as Colonel Leonid Kizim, Flight Engineer Vladimir Soloviyev and Cosmonaut researcher Oleg Atkov.

The Soyuz will link up with the Salyut-7 orbital station and the cosmonauts will carry out scientific, technical, medical and biological experiments.

Like all Soviet space missions, the flight was not announced in advance. Shortly after Tass broke the news, Soviet citizens watched recorded film of the launch from the Baikour Cosmodrome in Central Asia.

The last Soviet space mission, that of cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Alexander Alexandrov, ended on November 23 when the two men returned to Earth after a total of 149 days in space.

Fresh meaning has been given to the "space race" phrase of the 1960s by President Reagan's announcement last month that the United States would aim to develop a permanently manned space station.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly sent visiting crews to its semi-permanent series of Salyut space stations and declared its long-term goal of developing an orbital complex made up of several modules.

At a press conference before yesterday's launch, televised later, one of the cosmonauts said it would be "such a long mission", suggesting that it might equal or exceed the record.

Oleg Atkov is a medical man specializing in heart conditions, who would presumably be able to carry out more complex in-flight medical experiments. One of the main question-marks over long-term space flights is the effect of prolonged weightlessness on human physiology.

Mission commander Leonid Kizim, aged 42, was commander of the Soyuz T-3 spacecraft which linked up with the previous orbital station Salyut-6 in 1980.

● CAPE CANAVERAL: The US shuttle challenger's astronauts went before the camera yesterday to star in a panoramic movie being shot by colleague "Cell B" AicNair as their schedule called for rest and experiments before the next walk in space today (AP reports).

Kohl answers bitter opposition attack

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Chancellor Kohl and Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister, came under bitter opposition attack in the Bonn Parliament yesterday in a two-hour debate on the Kiesling affair.

The Social Democrats (SPD) accused Herr Kohl of direct involvement in Herr Wörner's decision to dismiss General Günter Kiesling, aged 58, as a security risk after reports that he was a homosexual. They said Herr Kohl had therefore taken upon himself responsibility for the affair.

Herr Gerhard Jahn of the SPD said that allowing the Minister to retain his post contradicted the customs of Parliamentary democracy, political culture and the reputation of the State.

Herr Willy Brandt of the SPD said a Defence Minister who made his department into a "panic orchestra" was out of place. Herr Jahn and Herr Brandt also said the Chancellor had not given satisfactory answers to the SPD's questions about the background to the affair.

Herr Kohl said he would answer all the questions in detail when he appeared before the Parliamentary all-party committee investigating the affair. His decision to rehabilitate the general and refuse Herr Wörner's offer to resign had taken into account the interests of the Federal Republic, the general and the armed services.

Herr Kohl added that he had decided it on his own responsibility. There had been no problems about it in his Conservative-Liberal coalition.

He assumed that in the interests of the security of the Federal Republic all mistakes that had been made would be cleared up. It was important for Herr Wörner's personal credibility that he had admitted his own mistakes.

Herr Kohl added: "I am convinced that the Minister, after his experience will in future perform especially good work for the armed services."

Herr Brandt accused the Chancellor of holding on to

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France pins its EEC hopes on austerity

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The French strategy for cutting through the Gordian knot of problems tying up progress in the EEC has become clearer after the latest round of councils in Brussels and the visit of President Mitterrand to Holland.

Essentially the aim is to agree on a fixed limit to community spending, and then to make it impossible for this limit to be broken.

Britain could be well satisfied with such a settlement, but only on condition that the share allotted to farm spending is particularly strictly controlled. It is also unlikely to want to find money for some of the

more grandiose schemes envisaged by President Mitterrand, such as a manned European space station.

Faithful to his plan to sound out the opinion of all EEC countries before the next European summit in March, President Mitterrand went to Luxembourg yesterday to discuss the problems and ideas of the Community's smallest state. Tomorrow he will be in Athens and next Wednesday in Brussels.

His visits have a dual purpose. On the one hand he is trying to work up enthusiasm for the European ideal so that the political will for agreement

can be created. On the other he is testing how acceptable the French idea for "capping" EEC spending is among other member states.

The Community's finance ministers on Monday found that M. Jacques Delors, the French Minister, means to press ahead with his plan for imposing a strict limit on Community spending. He first suggested it last November, and Mrs Thatcher has described it as excellent.

President Mitterrand, speaking in The Hague, outlined this approach as one of the ways for solving the EEC's problems. He emphasized the great import-

ance of budgetary discipline in language which Mrs Thatcher could only applaud.

But within this overall approach there is still no sign that farm ministers are prepared to make any concession which will involve any cost to their farmers.

Despite the looming financial crisis, however, President Mitterrand seems set on a "softly, softly" approach to the March summit.

● PARIS: French farmers have ended a two-day protest against British meat imports, in the course of which they invaded French Channel ports (AFP reports).

Balloon man hailed as hero

Page, Arizona (Reuters) - David Gill, aged 25, an engineer from Oswestry, Shropshire, ignored evacuation orders and shut off valves spewing flammable propane gas over the launch site of a 25-storey-tall balloon as the rest of the ground crew ran to safety.

The balloon broke loose from its moorings on Tuesday, minutes before Mike Kendrick and Per Lindstrand were to attempt a world altitude record.

Mr Gill was hailed as a hero yesterday. A project spokesman said he stayed behind to close valves on four more propane tanks at the launch site.

"If it had not been for his quick action, things could have become very dangerous." But Mr Gill said: "It is something anyone would have done in the circumstances."

The directors of Operation Sky Quest now have to decide whether to make another attempt on the record, which stands at 55,134 ft, or return to Britain and try again later.

Spain retreats from anti-Nato stance

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Withdrawal from Nato would be a retrograde step for Spain, while military integration offers several advantages, a Defence Ministry study says.

It is the second sign within days of subtle changes afoot since the Socialist Government came to power 14 months ago, committed to a referendum on whether Spain should withdraw.

Spain joined the political side of the alliance in May 1982, but the Socialists, on taking office, stopped further integration pending the referendum.

A report prepared by the head of the Defence Planning Unit at the Ministry reflects what has been learnt from a year's observer status on Nato's military committee in Brussels.

"If we withdrew from Nato, the lost benefits in information and planning... would create a void for the armed forces impossible to fill", the report says.

Similar arguments were advanced a few days ago by Señor Guillermo Galcoite, the Socialist chairman of the

defence committee of the Lower House. He said the Government ought to reconsider the Nato question.

Señor Galcoite is close to Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister, who has frequently recalled the Socialist pledge to advocate the withdrawal.

One of the key arguments in the defence report, released by the press department of Señor Narciso Serra, the Defence Minister, is that the other NATO countries "do not appear disposed to substitute the multilateral treaty with a series of bilateral agreements with Spain, if our full integration has not been achieved beforehand."

World and European problems make it difficult to hold the referendum now the report says, possibly suggesting postponement of the vote.

All the signs are that Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, wants to link staying in NATO with Spain's entry to the EEC by 1986.

Tonight at 9.30, watch an English boy get sent down for life.



5.00 Television Scrabble. Stephanie Lawrence is the guest star heading the challenging team today.

5.30 Chips Comic. Computer Chips and his friends look at oil drilling, oiling moving parts, and the use of petrol.

6.00 Barriers. Benedict Taylor as Billy, an orphaned teenager in search of his parents.

6.30 The Good Food Show. Prue Leith puts the case for stodgy goodies like jam roly-poly, spotted dick, and treacle tart.

7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.50 Comment. Neil Kinnock's first day in Washington.

8.00 Treasure Hunt. Tonight Majorca is the hunting ground for Annela Rice and her helicopter.

9.00 Soap. The Campbells and the Tates confront each other at a party with hilarious results.

9.30 The Boy in the Bush. It is 1882. Eighteen-year-old Jack Grant is shipped off to Australia by his parents, after being expelled from agricultural college. This four-part film series, based on a novel by DH Lawrence and ML Skinner, follows Jack's adventures as he grows to manhood in the tough surroundings of the outback, and encounters love and hostility.

10.30 World in Action Special. Gus Macdonald introduces a special World in Action report which focuses on the Protestant view of Ulster.

11.30 Wish You Were Here... If you missed it on ITV last Monday, this is another chance to tour Cyprus, visit Chester, and take a motorhome journey through California.

12.00 Stand Your Ground. Practical self-defence for women.

SPECTRUM

Lost loves of a soul survivor

"The past is very vivid. I think that as I get older, I think more and more about the early days... my childhood, my parents, my sisters and brother, and what life was like. And then the First World War which cracked the whole structure of our secure, privileged and very happy life. The bath water grew cold; the huge lawn was ploughed up for potatoes, the sons of friends were killed. I became aware of grief - other people's grief, world grief..."

Talking quietly, pausing between each word so that she seems at times to have lost direction, only to return with precision to the point - Rosamond Nina Lehmann easily evokes the lost world she transmuted into fiction. She was born on the day of Queen Victoria's funeral, in 1901, a coincidence "which seemed to give me an unexpectedly distinguished cachet: almost the reflection of a royal nimbus".

The long reign had ended at last, and a brief golden era was just beginning: the interlude that would end with the submergence of the old order in the mud of the Somme and the Marne. Rosamond Lehmann's birth was timely: her novels were to reflect both the elegance and the transience of the age. They have their roots (*Dusty Answer*, 1927) in the well-established Victorian literary tradition. They end in the more complex and shifting novel forms of the twentieth century - though whether you take *The Echoing Grove* (1953) or *A Sea-Grape Tree* (1976) as the proper ending is a matter of imagination.

She has described her upbringing as privileged and leisured. Their large house on the Thames at Bourne End was run by servants. The four Lehmann children "had the run of our father's library": watched over by their uncle's portraits of Browning and Wilkie Collins, they read Dickens as soon as they could read anything, and heard stories of their grandparents' friendship with George Eliot, George Henry Lewes, Bulwer Lytton, and Charles Dickens himself. They could not but be aware of three generations of artistic achievement behind them.

Rosamond was devoted to their father, Rudolph C. Lehmann - *Punch* editor, poet, Liberal MP, and famous "oar" - of whom the youthful Roosevelt wrote home to his parents, "Last night Mr Lehmann, the English coach, gave us an informal talk on rowing... as you probably know, he is about the greatest authority on rowing in the world".



The Times Profile: Rosamond Lehmann

It is interesting to compare accounts of this background by Rosamond (second in the family) and John Lehmann, the youngest. He portrays their childhood in broad, vivid strokes: happy, united, stimulating. Her style, in contrast, is that of film: intense cross-cuts isolate moments of intense pain or pleasure, always seen from the outside. She explains: "I always thought I was different, terribly isolated, thinking nobody understood me. Reading my parents' letters to each other after they were dead, I found they were worried about me. I was so oversensitive and anxious. I think I felt that nobody would understand what my despair was - not that I understood it myself."

She started writing verse at six, and gradually "the feeling of being locked-in and frustrated receded". But the sense of being outside did not: in all

her novels Miss Lehmann conjures up the lamplight fascination of other people.

Dusty Answer, written not long after Giron, and drawing on experience there, was an overnight success. A charge made by some critics that the novel displayed an unhealthy obsession with sex ensured its bestseller status. Fan letters came from all over Europe and America: men as well as women offered themselves as soul-mates to its lonely author. Rose Macaulay reviewed it somewhat disparagingly, saying that when she was at Cambridge she and her friends did not think about young men. One letter, signed "Mother of Six", said: "Before consigning your book to flames, would wish to inform you of my disgust that anyone should pen such filth, especially a MISS."

All "informed" opinion agreed that

the novel was mere autobiography, and that she would never be heard of again.

This Rosamond Lehmann countered with *A Note in Music* (1930), *Invitation to the Waltz* (1932), its sequel *The Weather in the Streets* (1936), *The Ballad and the Source* (1944), a collection of stories, *The Gypsy's Baby* (1946), and *The Echoing Grove* (1953) her last novel for many years. With its complex time-structure and subtle ironies, *The Echoing Grove* is probably her masterpiece, and stands as a forceful argument against those patronizing detractors who hint that, after all, Lehmann is merely a women's novelist.

It has become a critical commonplace to say that Lehmann novels are about love. *The Weather in the Streets* has been called the quintessential novel of "the other women", and it shocked readers in the 1930s by dealing with adultery and abortion. But to sum it all up as "love" is far too simplistic, as she herself agrees.

Rosamond Lehmann's genius is to embody in luminous prose what Cecil Day Lewis called, in the magnificent poem *Elegy Before Death: at Settimo* (dedicated to R.N.L.), "the potency of farewell". Her two marriages ended, her private life was often deeply troubled: as a teenage girl she watched her splendid and beloved father die of Parkinson's disease, as a woman she heard by telephone of the death of her daughter... and it is all this (beyond the mere spotting of "originals" for faithless lovers) that gives the novels their depth.

In her conversation, as in her work, Rosamond Lehmann can sometimes seem preoccupied with the appearances of things: beauty in men and women, elegance in clothes and surroundings, all the accoutrements of a certain class at a certain time in British history. Yet it was she who witnessed her own father weeping in that grand library at the death of the groom's little daughter; so the well-mannered or glittering surfaces shift and dissolve, to reveal the terror beneath. It is precisely this tension, between the exteriority and inwardness, and reality which lends her work its fine irony. So, in *The Weather in the Streets*, the easy glamour of Rollo Spencer contrasts with Olivia's loneliness, and the bleak finiteness of their love affair.

Not so much love, then, as loss: sides of the same coin. In the novels, the death of a child (abortion, stillbirth, a son killed at war) is a frequent symbol: one that darkly prefigures the bereavement which was to change Rosamond Lehmann's life. Again, she will make the loop back into childhood: recalling that when she was about 10 she was taken to see Maeterlinck's *The Blue Bird*. "There's a moment when the children are in a graveyard surrounded by tombstones and lilies, and they cry out: 'But there are no dead'. I distinctly remember nearly fainting with excitement and relief, and thinking, I know that's true."

Years later, her understanding of that faith is what gives her life meaning. In 1958, Rosamond Lehmann's daughter Sally contracted poliomyelitis in Indonesia, and died suddenly at the age of 22. The shock, and appalling grief, changed the mother's life: her existence was "maimed" and her life as the novelist she had been was over. In a private letter she writes: "I think it true to say that some dimension of creativity dropped off me, so to speak, when that metanoia occurred after Sally left the Earth. I realized, and still do, that I could never write the kind of novel I had always written..." She did, however, move towards a more concentrated and poetic expression of her belief in the life of Sally's spirit. To sum up this conviction in a word so fraught with misunderstanding as "spiritualism" does not do justice to Rosamond Lehmann's profound comprehension of the nature of death, and of the survival of the soul. It is best to read the semi-autobiography, *The Swan in the Evening*.

When it came out in 1967 the response was mixed: critics and friends alike were embarrassed (as she had feared) by her exploration of the two taboos: death and its aftermath. Not so now: the book brings countless letters from bereaved parents, many of whom visit her to talk about their loss. She sees this as her new work: "Now I know why I have been left behind. I am vice-president of the College of Psychic Studies and it is a great part of my life... a lifeline. I feel I have a role - to tell people that death does not exist. It isn't hard for me to do. It is what I am for." But she was hurt and irritated when her one attempt to write "a novel with a psychic dimension" (*A Sea-Grape Tree*) met with a callow lack of comprehension.

Her sitting room, in the small house in South Kensington, is small and crammed with books. She works on a tray on her knee by the fire, photographs of her two small great-grandchildren at her elbow. She is warm and welcoming, pleased to find points of contact and common interest, and fascinated by facts about her visitor's children.

Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are, she says, very important to her: embodying the sense of continuation. "I was talking to my four-year-old great-grandson the other week. He was staying with me in the small cottage I have in Suffolk, and came into my room early in the morning. I opened one eye, and he said, 'I'll miss you when you go to heaven'. I told him that we'd keep in touch with one another. Then he said, 'You're rather old, aren't you? I'm young, but I shall get old. When I'm old, will you come and fetch me? Isn't it amazing? He just wanted reassurance that there would be somebody there to receive him. If only I had somebody to give a promise like that!'"

She will watch *Crown Court* on the television in the afternoon, and be riveted by the jury's verdict: read novels by Alice Thomas Ellis and Anita Brookner: keep abreast of literary gossip. Though friends press her to write another novel, she asserts that she is content with things as they are. But she was very excited by what she calls her "resurrection" by Virago, who republished novels long out of print, and brought Rosamond Lehmann back to a public which wondered why she had for so long been neglected. She chuckles. "It is sheer delight, pleasure, surprise. My grandchildren did not really think of me as a writer. Recently my son Hugo told me that his son Guy had just read *The Weather in the Streets*, and was bowled over! It's marvellous to have a new generation of readers. They identify, you see. The world may have changed, but the human problems stay the same."

She says, with a complete absence of sadness or tiredness, that she will welcome death. "I am very serene now. I have complete peace of mind. I do get slightly depressed when the autumn is bad, and I dread to live to be a burden. And one loses friends: I miss my sister Beatrice (the actress) dreadfully, and Elizabeth Bowen - was a great friend... The voice fades, for a moment you think that she has forgotten those words of the children in *The Blue Bird*. Then she looks up, and says with utter trust in the listener's understanding: 'But you see, I can only be serene because I know that death does not exist. I have complete conviction that I am going to know more than I know now. And see Sally again.'"

Bel Mooney

Rosamond Lehmann's *The Weather in the Streets*, adapted by Juliet Mitchell, will be shown on BBC2 on Sunday 9.30 pm.

however...
Russell Davies

Ghastly Gastein

By now, the more provident and sensible among you should already have laid your bets, officially termed "deposits", on which of the tour operators is likely to be still operating when summer comes round. However, there is still time to take advantage of February's special offers, many of which include tempting extras, such as free travel and accommodation for one child between the ages of 2 and 3, and reduced-price ski passes for OAPs.

The British Booking Centre advises that the best bargains are now available at the less fashionable resorts, and that particularly good value-for-money deals may be obtained at the locations we list below (extracts from brochure by permission of Intapunta Ltd). Please note that all bookings quoting this exclusive Times Newspapers code (SEP.3/1939) will qualify for a free Arab feast of spicy couscous and sheep's eyes on all routes traversing the Bay of Biscay, whether by air or sea.

Unterammergau: Take me to your Lederhosen! This is surely one of the sleepest villages in the Tyrol, except in Leap Year, when the inhabitants bend themselves to the task of producing their famous Ration Play. This ancient text, commemorating the legendary food shortages of the thirteenth century, is performed for the benefit of villagers by a specially auditioned cast of tourists. It could be you! (Take packed lunch.)

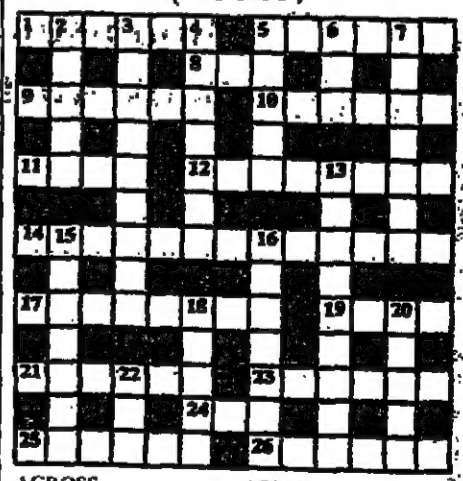
Outsbruck: Quite a long way from Innsbruck, especially in terms of provision of amenities. But an excellent centre for walks to local beauty spots such as Bad Gastein, Good Gastein, and Gash Gastein. Buses are few and far between, but the accommodation at the Hotel Niemand is extremely available.

Wellidorm: This new resort on Spain's undiscovered Costa Mungia is just beginning to make an impact. Expressly designed (and built) for the British visitor, its 38 hooligan-proof bars will challenge your ingenuity. A thoughtfully constructed chrome-and-glass shopping centre makes you feel right at home, and there are elegant rambling graffiti to complete the effect. At the 9,000-bed Hotel Punta, a helpful photomontage above each bed shows how it should be used, and why. Cisco's Disco is a 24-hour affair, like most of what goes on in Wellidorm - and here's a novel touch - Wayne's Red Barrel is available from standpipes on the beach.

Dedlos: Give Greece a chance! Only 12 hours by trawler from Piraeus is the endlessly sun-kissed island of Dedlos, part of that forgotten corner of the Cyclades which also includes Thermos, Kolyvos, Mazos and Jolos. Here you can forget your cares and lie in the sun with a glass of ouzo at your elbow, or alternatively sit in the shade with a glass of retsina balanced on your head. And for that special occasion, why not lie in the sun with a glass of retsina and vice versa? Anything goes on beautiful Dedlos, except the ferry to Ilios and Givatos.

Dallas (pronounced Dath-las): A little-known village in Gwynedd, North Wales, remarkable for its traditional feuds between slate magnates. Every year we return to this tiny community hoping it isn't there any more. No luck so far.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 263)



- ACROSS
1 Invested with title (6)
2 Excessively sweet (6)
3 Type (3)
4 Head counting (6)
5 Imaginative person (6)
6 Indian coin (4)
7 Book plate (2,6)
8 Scholarly women (4,9)
9 Scarp's sweater (8)
10 Wheel bar (4)
11 Enable (6)
12 Hot pot stand (6)
13 Leguminous plant (3)
14 Minister (6)
15 Vocal passage (6)
- DOWN
1 Town dwelling (5)
2 Caribbean pirate (9)
3 Differ in opinion (7)
4 Special ability (5)
5 Chapter idly (2)
6 Swaying (7)
7 Colonel's superior (9)
8 Wash clothes (7)
9 Transparent (7)
10 Brushed (5)
11 Slaying bed (3,2)
12 Community meeting (3)

SOLUTION TO No 262
ACROSS: 1 Daktari 4 Remote 7 Limb 8 Recusant
9 Buzz word 12 Met 15 Exhumed 16 Avals
17 Goo 19 Inventor 24 Occluded 25 Idol
DOWN: 1 Doll 2 Kampuchea 3 Throw 4 Racer
5 Musk 6 Tinge 10 Zombi 11 Divan 12 Mail
order 13 Tosh 14 Berg 18 Op cit 20 Nudge
21 Elder 22 Also 23 Bloc

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The writer in her forties: exploring the potency of loss.

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ROSAMOND NINA LEHMANN
born February 3, 1901, educated
privately, Giron College,
Cambridge, married 1928 Hon.
Wogan Phillips
Writing:
1927 *Dusty Answer*
1930 *A Note in Music*
1932 *Invitation to the Waltz*
1936 *The Weather in the Streets*
1938 *No More Music* (play)
1944 *The Ballad and the Source*
1946 *The Gypsy's Baby*
1953 *The Echoing Grove*
1965 *A Man Seen Afar* (with W.
Tudor Pole)
1967 *The Swan in the Evening*
1971 *Letters From Our Daughters*
(with Cynthia, Baroness
Sandys)
1976 *A Sea-Grape Tree*

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BOOKS

Fiction of the fortnight

The novelist as a subject

The Paper Men
By William Golding
(Faber, £7.95)

The Paper Men tells us that biography is the trade of the con man, a famous accomplishment, and the height of impertinence in both meanings of the word. Biographers, particularly of living writers, can be tricked into believing any rubbish and deserve whatever they get, most of all when they happen to be rummaging through the dustbins for old photographs on the night the writer's marriage begins to break up.

William Barclay, the narrator of William Golding's new novel, is a drunken novelist and stained glass-fancier in late middle age, with one good book to his credit, and an oeuvre substantial enough to keep the researchers of Middle America in contented collaring. He is modest about his talent - "I hit the jackpot. Someone has to - but ferocious about keeping his privacy to himself. Enter Rick Tucker, hairy ape from Nebraska, with a brief for a ruthless billionaire to acquire Barclay's papers, have himself appointed literary executor and official biographer.

It is hard to tell from *The Paper Men* what kind of novelist Barclay is meant to be, because *The Paper Men* is not a very good book. A comedy is intended, I think, if only because farce and comedy are quite often mentioned as having just taken place, but the handling is clumsy and it is fairly unfunny compared even to the more successful sections of, say *The Pyramid* (1967).

The trouble is partly that others

have covered much of the terrain thoroughly before him, partly that he has done so himself. From *The Aspern Papers* on, the unscrupulousness of the scholar in pursuit has hardly been classified, information, and Auden, Burgess, Bradbury, Updike, and Amis have all written well about the peculiar crassness of American literati on the campus treadmill. Golding's Rick Tucker is a dull creature indeed beside Russell Gwynett, the laggard of the international seminar set in Anthony Powell's *Temporary Kings*.

None of these precedents would matter if Golding had brought the themes of the genre into livelier contact with his own talents for obsession and intensity, but the dizziness of ambition was handled far better in *The Spire*, the metamorphosis of human into animal in *Lord of the Flies*. The best of Golding's work produces truth out of a refining fire, but *The Paper Men* rarely catches alight at all, and the bathos of inflation threatens to engulf.

Oh God, oh God, oh God, the process, link by link, we don't know what will come from this seed, what glorious filigree and flowers, yet come it does, proceeding with more and more seeds, millions, until the whole of new, the universal Now, is nothing but irreducible result.

Paper is the fragile element uniting Tucker and Barclay as the former pursues the latter back and forth across Europe, through landscapes deliberately left vague, save for a Sicilian island (Syracuse?) and Switzerland, which, like Graham Greene in *Dr Fischer of Geneva*, a far better book, Golding employs as a setting for banal grandeur and moral

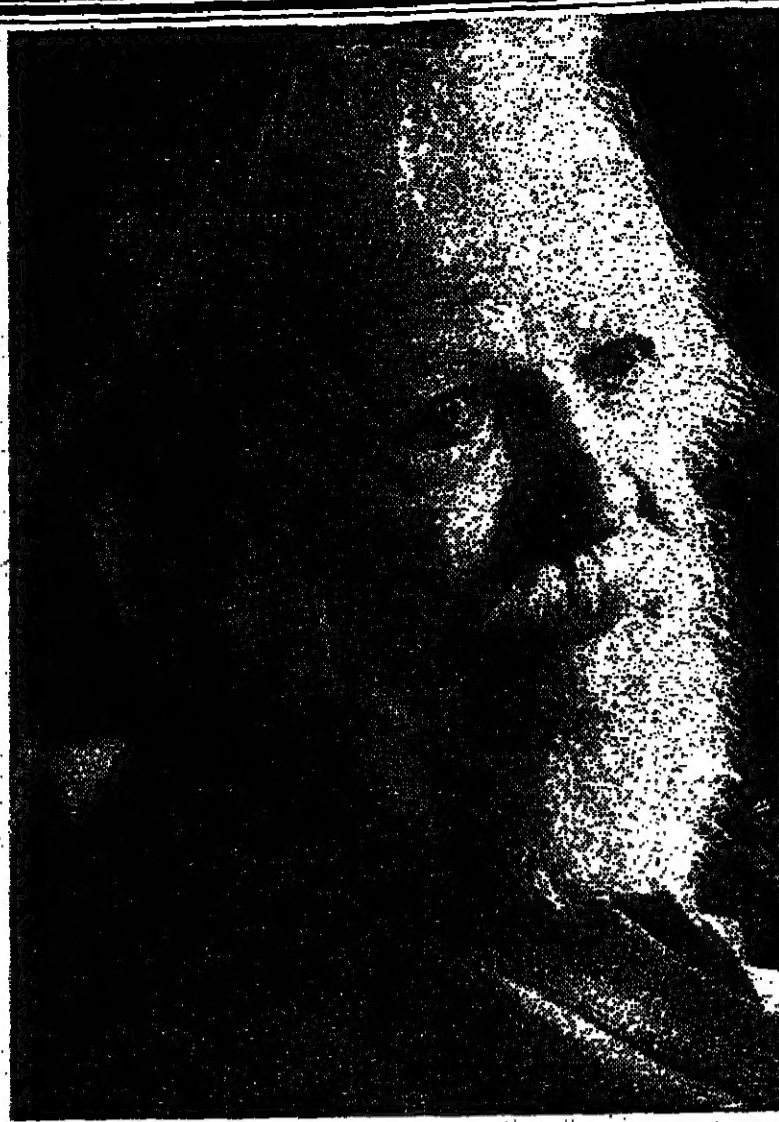
mischief. Tucker, desperate for the commission and caught between a mercenary patron and an elusive genius, throws his young wife first at Barclay, who is tempted but declines, then at the patron who snaps her up.

One by one crucial events and symbols are banged into place like piers under an eccentric bridge. Tucker saves Barclay from a death fall in the fog, but Barclay later discovers they were on a gentle Alpine slope and that Tucker knew all the time (this may be taken to parody Ibsen, or Golding himself: a terrifying encounter with a statue of Christ-Pluto on the island, well described, reminds Barclay that he has always believed in God and that he is damned. Stigmatic pains in hands and feet start to ease after a dream in which he is led down the Spanish Steps in Rome by a kindly figure into a world of love without sex, the reverse of his own.

The happiness induced by this dream gives him the strength to emerge from hiding, himself pursue and humiliate Tucker, and see again his ex-wife, now in the last days of cancer. The visit at her funeral tells him not to worry about being Christ: he is most likely just one of the thieves on either side. A caricatured homosexual acquaintance tells Barclay he is exskeletal, like a lobster; his bones are on the outside and the worms are devouring the soft flesh within. He stops drinking.

There is more, but not a lot, and a surprise ending contrives to suggest that Rick Tucker has allowed *The Paper Men* itself to be published. A subtle revenge indeed.

Michael Ratcliffe



William Golding: obsession and intensity

Classic satire of Spain

La Regenta
By Leopoldo Alas
(Allen Lane, £14.95)

The Stain
By Rikiki Ducornet
(Chatto & Windus, £7.95)

The biggest novel this week, in every sense, is the first English translation of *La Regenta* by the Spaniard Leopoldo Alas, first published in 1885. Here is the perfect book for a desert island: very long and so densely written that you skip at your peril, an absorbing account of a claustrophobic society explored with unexpectedly modern powers of analysis.

The story is slight; it concerns the seduction of La Regenta, the judge's wife, in the provincial town of Votusia. The question is, which seducer will succeed, for two men are passionately in pursuit, Don Alvaro of her body, Don Fermín of her soul. Alas herself is bored to despair with her marriage to the elderly Don Victor, and with the rapidity of Votusian society. Without memories of a happy childhood to fall back on, she takes refuge in the kind of

illness that Dr Freud had he been in business there at the time, would have diagnosed as hysteria. She veers neurotically between the Don Juan and the priest, both of whom she innocently sees as soul brothers. Much to the alarm of her husband, who would "sooner see her seduced than fanatized", she seems to be finding the comfort she craves in the bosom of the church when the sudden revelation of the man beneath the soutane shocks her into a new awareness of her situation.

All the while a Chorus of Votusians scrutinizes every move in this complicated game, aware, as Ana disastrously is not, that the prime mover throughout is sex, and adding their weight to whichever side suits their own particular ambitions.

What makes this pre-Freudian novel so remarkable is the interplay between the characters, and the subtle distinctions between deliberate and subconscious behaviour. The theme of provincial frustration was not new; *Madame Bovary* anticipated *La Regenta* by some 30 years. Nor are the individual characters of great interest, except in each other's eyes.

There are places where the author offers direct flashes of observation: of Don Victor declaiming poetry alone in the small hours, grotesquely dressed in red flannel jacket and green and gold tasselled smoking cap, brandishing a sword; of Don Alvaro, self-consciously limbering up for the grand seduction; of Don Fermín incoherent with jealousy and lust. But Alas has a wider aim: his real targets are institutions, the established church and a conservative society that promotes ignorance in the interests of self-preservation, and where innocence born of that ignorance proves as culpable as viciousness and guile. *La Regenta* is their victim.

Undeniably, the book has longeurs: one would need to be on a desert island to sort out some of the minor characters and sub-plots without impatience. But it is hard to write about boredom without becoming tedious. I recommend the enthusiastic introduction by John Rutherford, who is also responsible for the vigorous and idiomatic translation.

The Stain is a birthmark, a hare - the mark of Satan - on the face of a girl child born in panic and squalor and an excess of blood in a village in France. Again, the time is the 1880s, but here nothing has changed in hundreds of years, and the images evoked in relentless detail recall Bruegel and Bosch rather than Millet. Everything that moves is ripe for violation, in this tale of witchcraft, superstition, and sex, as The Exorcist pursues his victim through village, convent, and forest, from infancy to puberty. The atmosphere is steamy and pungent; and Rikiki Ducornet gazes malevolently from dust-jacket, daring the world to challenge her indubitably powerful nightmare vision. Not for the squeamish.

Isabel Raphael

Fine first novel from India

Paro

Dreams of Passion

By Namita Gokhale
(Chatto & Windus, £7.95)

The Colonel's Daughter
By Rose Tremain
(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

One of the epidemics which decimated the Tehuelche Indians of southern Patagonia was caused by some contaminated waste-paper. As a result, the tribe held a deep suspicion of the written word. This suspicion, I often find in reading my week's batch of fiction, is not necessarily confined to the Tehuelches. How refreshing then to come upon a first novel such as *Paro*.

Namita Gokhale is only 27, but her highly-flavoured tale of the passions and jealousies of a group of middle-class Indians is observed with the assurance and the subtlety of an extremely seasoned writer. *Paro*, the narrator, is an ordinary, plain girl from Bombay who sees herself as an "immovable object" even when kissing the love of her life - a flabby manufacturer of sewing machines known only as BR - she is "detachedly clinical". For the bulk of the novel, she casts her kohled eye on *Paro*, a self-dramatizing beauty with crinkling green eyes, an arrogant without portfolio, and a scorpion wit. Always exuding "the rivet smell of recent sexual activity", *Paro* inspires in the men she meets something between a leer and a salute. Though *Paro* never convinces the reader of her professed love for *Paro*, it is clear she loves - to the point of obsession - what the woman gets up to, first with BR whom she marries, then with everyone from a buck-toothed cricketeer to a homosexual film director.

Like its narrator, *Paro*'s account of *Paro*'s rise and fall is instinctively honest, intelligent and undemanding. My criticism of this otherwise compelling debut is that *Paro*'s participation in the saga is too vicarious; her stance too distant. The profundity of her avowed affection for BR, whom she intermittently bumps into on his whistle-stop tour of the female sex, is not commensurate; nor is the pain when *Paro* pulls out lumps of her hair "like an avenging fury" on finding she has written a book about her. In fact the author is so detached that she almost loses control of her story so that its structure, determined by *Paro*'s growing, obesity and eventual death, begins to take on the shape of her cleavage which is constantly wobbling out of its sari.

Rose Tremain made a big splash with her last novel, *The Cupboard*, which quite rightly placed her at the forefront of Young British writers. This collection of short stories finds her clinging again to the side of the pool, the reason being that some of them are rather too well suited to the women's magazines in which they first appeared. *Curlew Account*, for instance, is a perfectly succulent but utterly unremarkable piece about a Princess with still estimable legs whose young lover - a sculptor - so resents his need of her money that he goes off with her spindly daughter.

Occasionally, by way, one feels, of experiment, Rose Tremain makes a few strokes in a new direction. One story, of an actor who gets the part of Buckingham in a feature film and actually falls for the man who plays James I, purports to be his exercise in a "Make Money by Writing" course; another takes the form of an interview given to a local journalist by a randy but

ancient peer. For the most part, though, the author treads the same water - which means a few locations in France, the odd blimpish colonel, and the blameworthy examination of the way in which people use each other and how relationships stale.

Nothing wrong with that except in many of these stories she overdoes the pudding with characters who are always rearranging flowers or burbling bits of poetry (even her lawyers have poets' faces). Her prose, which is naturally elegant in tone and rhythmic in measure, tends to smother much of the life she is capable of breathing into these characters. ("And the meopausal Penelope mourned the dying out of beauty.") Though pain squats deep within they seem to have great trouble in crying. There's always someone "in search of tears that refused to come". My harshness is to some extent a measure of my disappointment. Only in *A Shooting Season* does she show what she can do, with the tender exposure of a selfish poet. On discovering his present wife has a lover, he seeks consolation in the arms of his ex-wife who has tried to replace the loss of him by writing a novel. This is also what Rose Tremain should return to.

Nicholas Shakespeare

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Charles Douglas-Horne on envy
Scourge of cant

Reality and Rhetoric
Studies in the Economics of
Development
By Peter Bauer
(Hafeld & Nicholson, £11.95)

Lord Bauer has for 30 years been Professor of Economics at the LSE, specialising in development studies. For much of that time he has used his expertise to point out the false premises of the development aid lobby which have grown up in the wake of the departing European empire. An earlier book of his, *Discontent* (1972), was described by its anonymous but angry reviewer as "the ultimate *Utopia* *dis* *clerc*". Underneath the west in 1981 to publish *Equality, the Third World and Economic Delusion*, which pressed home his attacks; and now *Reality and Rhetoric*. Most of his books are collections of essays, lectures, or reviews, based on research which, questioned conventional and received opinion about development. There is no harm in that. If you think something is worth saying, it is usually worth repeating. Moreover, this latest offering, as with its predecessors, is full of original and profound work.

Given its polemical nature, this book is understandably written in hard assertive prose, implacable in its argument and sparing in digressions. Bauer's earliest works are recognized as classics in their field of scholarship; the later ones, however, are directed more at the laity.

conclusions that aid was not indispensable for the progress of poor countries and it often served to underwrite and prolong extremely damaging policies.

But perhaps the most original piece in this volume is a devastating attack on papal propaganda about international poverty. Bauer accuses the Vatican of "legitimizing envy" by suggesting in two papal messages that economic differences reflect injustice. They lead the Vatican to condemn landowners as a class, and to propose a world economic authority to impose its will on all governments. "The Pope's diagnosis and proposals are remarkably commonplace. There is nothing distinctively Christian or Catholic about them," he writes. "They are to be found, for example, in so secular a document as the Brandt Report." Articulate clergymen and many academics are suspicious of and hostile to people engaged in the process of making money, and they affect a supercilious disdain for its results, he says. Yes, indeed, we know of them; we read them more often in print than we do the Bayers of this world.

Bauer asserts that the documents are immoral since they give colour to the notion that envy - one of the official seven deadly sins - may be legitimate. He suggests that there is a confusion about charity, aggravated by churchmen who have lost their faith and accept with credulity many items which conflict with reality, let alone morality. He recalls Chesterton's quote: "When men cease to believe in a deity, they do not believe in nothing; they then simply believe in anything."

Bauer's books are essential reading for anybody who is tempted to believe that once a conventional wisdom becomes conventional wisdom, it is time to question the convention. They are, as much a stimulus in themselves, as for the many revealing quotations of other writers which are included in the text.

Paperbacks on Saturday include Simon Raven, *Zionism: The Memoirs of an Anti-Semite*, and E. F. Benson and the rebirth of the Hogarth Press.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson and
Victoria Glendinning acknowledge
that there is no justification for the
remarks attributed to the late
Lady Sackville in

VITA -

The Life of V. Sackville West

concerning Lord Roderic Pratt and
they apologise to Lord Roderic Pratt
for any embarrassment that the
publication of those remarks may
have caused. All future editions of the
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'A major work which must carry the highest recommendation. It is by turns wise, caustic, mature, erotic, comic and philosophical... It is writing of the highest order, recalling Bashevis Singer or the earliest stories of Nabokov' GLASGOW HERALD

'Here is a work that tackles - without regret, without illusions and without shallow moral judgements; by turns, engaged and detached, funny and sad, tender and heartless; often in a tone of merciless self-flagellation and always from the most oblique angle one can imagine - the phenomenon of Anti-Semitism, and its correlative anti-Semitism, the double tragedy of legal misunderstanding that changed the face of Europe and the world' BRUCE CHATWIN

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The Sandman
By Miles Gibson
(Heinemann, £7.95)

Cul-de-Sac
By John Wainwright
(Macmillan, £7.50)

The sleep induced by the Sandman is a violent and permanent. He has killed, for pleasure and mostly at random, 18 men and women. The diary of a psychopathic mass murderer is not the easiest vehicle for a novelist to attempt in his first book, but Gibson is largely successful even if he does not entirely convince that a multiple killer's mind works in quite such a humdrum way.

Gibson's strength is his exceptional skill in describing commonplace detail and mood. The tatty seaside hotel of the Sandman's childhood, the streets of London as he searches for a new victim, and the house in Victoria, and its occupants, where he comes to live, are sketched unerringly and evocatively. The intrusion of the terrifyingly abnormal into this depressed matter-of-fact world makes compelling and frightening reading.

The cover of *Cul-de-Sac* is plastered with wildly enthusiastic comments from no less than Georges Simenon. They are difficult to live up to, and may have done John Wainwright a disservice by pitching the reader's expectations so high. It is an ambitious, well-written, and interestingly structured work, but not an "unfor-

gettable novel". On the surface the tale is simple: did John Duxbury push his wife over the cliff, or did she fall accidentally? The coroner plumped for the latter, but Sergeant Barker is not satisfied. Sensitive entries from the suspect's diary mingle effectively with the robust narrative of the investigation, and the denouement is effective if melodramatic.

A Lovely Day to Die, by Cilla Fremia (Gollancz, £6.95). Chilling short stories on the theme of death. Overwhelming atmosphere of simmering hatred and wickedness among the trivia of daily intercourse. The old and the unloved are Fremia's speciality, and she makes death, to them, welcome or repulsive, but always near at hand. Wonderfully written, subtle and disturbing.

Vicar's Roses, by Jon Green (Macmillan, £6.95). Witty, canny, racing through California's horse-racing world, Jockey in full racing regalia murdered on a statue of equine hero. Racing commentator, love-life at stake, investigates. Convincing background and sharp dialogue - more than compensate for over-the-top eccentric aunt and attendant charlatans.

The Gendola Scam, by Jonathan Gash (Collins, £6.95). Engaging antiquarian. Lovejoy on and under. Vegasian canals in search of fakes and frauds. Gash's knowledge of the villainous end of the antiquities trade is profound and communicated with enthusiasm and

pace. Lovejoy is an original, half-cook half-baked, uncertain which side of the law to back and whose bed to fill. He stumbles on a conspiracy as tortuous as the canals themselves.

Pel and the Predators, by Mark Hebdon (Hamish Hamilton, £6.95). The beguiling Inspector Pel, proud Burgundian, investigates murders nearly 40 years apart. Impeccable French provincial ambience, exaggerated flics, and a well-constructed solution. Hebdon proves again that few understand Gallic cops better than English writers.

Natural Causes, by Jonathan Valls (Collins, £6.95). Scandal and death in the bizarre and bitchy world of soap opera. Cincinnati private eye Harry Stoner goes to Los Angeles armed with small-city morality and a perceptive feel for the empty seediness of the rich and successful.

A Conflict of Interests, by Clive Egleston (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.95). The killing of a blackmailing call-girl has the intelligence service jumpy and possessive. But dogged policeman refuses to be pushed off the truth. Mr. P. does V.D.S. with an ex-CIA killer intervening.

Rainbows end in Tears, by David Fletcher (Macmillan, £6.95). Question obsession peace-worker was his father a brutal child-killer? Only papa's murderer, newly released from prison, knows for sure.

Marcel Berlins

THE ARTS

Television
A lovely sort of boredom

Those Rayners at Hollywood House. Harrow-on-the-Hill, have they got something going? "We are so devoted it's a joke," said Mrs Rayner, an agony aunt read and watched by millions with nothing to mar her joy other than the dreadful feeling that one day mortality must spoil it.

Claire and Desmond were telling how it is in Edward Mizzoff's *The Other Half*, which is going to be a diverting half-hour on BBC1 for the next five weeks as disparate couples, each consisting of a known and unknown, expose themselves to our gaze and, as they are volunteers, risk our conclusions.

Mrs Rayner began last night at a racing pace. Tranquilized, one would imagine she would appear rather extrovert. They married in 1957. An unresolved problem with her parents meant that an uncle gave her away. Since then, as the song says, it doesn't seem a day too much.

Desmond Rayner is a failed actor, a former public relations man and, lately - for we saw his first exhibition at the Barbican patronized by the American Ambassador - a painter. Mainly he looks after Claire's affairs, for she hates money and it bores her.

Boredom threatens constantly, for the money pours in. Being in demand where agony admits no other solution is only part of it. She has historical novels selling in 19 countries and one of them alone brought in £248,730 for the paperback rights, disturbing Mrs Rayner's ennuï sufficiently for her to remember it. Seventy per cent of her income, she said, came from novels.

Six part-time secretaries attend her in Hollywood House. A beauty brigade who descend to do their best for her add to the traffic. Desmond is mostly around, though they have separate telephones.

He does not mind being in the shadow at all; he feels that with Claire he has got quantity and quality. Every week he hands her £15 pocket-money, keeping that boredom to a bearable minimum.

Everywhere they go they have double beds. Confronted with single beds, said Desmond, irrespective of the native tongue, he said "marrimoniales". Their three children, two boys, aged 21 and 16, and a girl aged 24, joined the celebration. One boy, said Claire, had been temporarily suspended from public school for being a pot party. Her fame had caused undue publicity. The other son had dropped out of university.

They were all boisterously happy. Desmond and Claire touching and kissing, exuding bliss by the bucketful. "If one of us is away," said Claire, "the other wits". I could quite believe it.

Dennis Hackett



Stuart Bedford: "A lot remains to be solved"

Opera
Lost traditionThe Indian Queen.
Playhouse, Oxford

The baroque semi-opera has always seemed an unlikely institution, and I fear its claims are not strongly urged by the Oxford University Opera Club's attempt to find something to revive in *The Indian Queen*.

This was Purcell's last important work for the theatre, but that suggests something of wisdom and maturity, forget it. Purcell was not asked for such things, his task being rather to add a few songs, dances and chorals scenes to a Dryden play that had been around for 30 years, a heroic drama set in Mexico just before the Spanish conquest.

To summarize the plot would be tedious, and quite beyond my capabilities. Besides, the interest of the piece is not there. Dryden's play presents us with queens, warriors and princes moved by the most generalized sentiments of Honour, Magnanimity, Love and Disdain to speak in regular patterns of rhyming couplet and quatrains, while the music, such as it is, takes over a few exotic corners of the drama: most notably a scene of apparitions in the third act, the kind of thing Purcell was well used to supplying.

As usual in this genre, the speaking and singing casts rarely meet and do not even seem to be in the same world, since the score is as pretty as the play is grand.

One wonders how audiences of the time could possibly have

endured the thing, especially when an uncut performance, with all of the prologue, five acts and concluding masque, would probably be of *Götterdämmerung* proportions, and especially when one knows from their comedies that Purcell's contemporaries were not lacking in theatrical sophistication.

The answer must be that a tradition has been lost. We know a little of how formalized the acting conventions of late seventeenth-century tragedy were, and we may guess that the music seemed less a decorative appendage when everything was style. To perform *The Indian Queen* without some recompense for that style is bound to be as hopeless as to do a Noh play as if it actually meant something.

The rhetoric, exquisiteness and superb decadence that might make the piece work are, however, beyond the resources of a university society, and one must be grateful for the rare opportunity to glimpse something of *The Indian Queen* at all.

Among the acting cast, David Roberts as Montezuma stands out for his ability to persuade us that there is a real person struggling to get through the cardboard. The singers include Tessa Bonner, who gives a sweet, simple account of the work's hit song, "I attempt from love's sickness to fly". Denis Arnold in the pit does his best with a band inclined to carry Purcell's chromaticism as far forward as Ligeti.

Paul Griffiths

Berio in charge

Luciano Berio is the new director of the Maggio Musicale in Florence, which opens this year on May 5. The theme of *Orpheus* runs through the festival, and Monteverdi's *Orfeo* will be conducted by Roger Norrington at the Palazzo Vecchio for four performances starting on June 18. A modern transcription of the same work, using pop techniques, will be staged by Luca Ronconi at the Piazza Santa Spirito at the end of June.

Among the orchestras visiting the Maggio are the Philadelphia (conducted by Riccardo Muti), the Israel Philharmonic (Leonard Bernstein) and the Orchestre de Paris (Daniel Barenboim). *Rigoletto*, as previously announced on this page, will be staged by Yuri Lyubimov at the Teatro Comunale. The cast includes Piero Cappuccelli, Edita Gruberova and Peter Dvorský.

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STOPS DIARRHOEA - FAST

Owen Wingrave has hitherto seemed Britten's least effective opera, but this year's Aldeburgh Festival plans to reinvigorate it. Hilary Finch reports

The theatre of undiminished faith

In this summer's Aldeburgh Festival, whose plans were announced yesterday, interest is likely to focus sharply on the Britten-Pears School's new production of *Owen Wingrave*. Britten's operatic adaptation of Henry James's ghostly story of the son who rebels against his family's military tradition is still widely regarded as the most of his operatic brood. Was it an opera for television, or a television opera? How should it find its audience? It intrigued and bewildered its first viewers in 1971, and, although it had its champions, was little more at ease when transferred to the swamping space of Covent Garden two years later.

Stewart Bedford, who conducted *Wingrave*'s first stage performance as well as that of *Death in Venice*, and who has been an artistic director of the festival for 10 years, has decided to re-stage *Wingrave* and bring it back to Snape. How does he defend his decision against charges which continue to be levelled against the work - that the piece, for instance, is crudely propagandist in its exploitation of a mass audience to preach a parable of pacifism and protest?

"Well, Britten never said anything along those lines to me. I think he'd simply been very impressed with Basil Coleman's work on the

television. *Billy Budd*, and then *Grimes*, and, although it had all been wearing, his faith was undiminished. He was glad of a commission which gave him the opportunity to get more things right. I must say I disliked the television concept from the start: the one-sidedness of not being able to choose what one wanted to look at. I felt once we'd got the work into the theatre it was much more successful.

"It may be thought of as Britten's least successful work, but we've had very little chance to savour it in performance and to reappraise it. A lot of course, remains to be solved, yes. The first three scenes are problematical, difficult to get off the ground. And there's one scene in particular, where Wingrave is sitting, musing, in the park and he's interrupted by the Horse Guards. Suddenly it turns into a scene of massacre. The music does it all for you, but it's really difficult to portray on stage. Perhaps one could use cinematic projection. I wonder what Basil Coleman will do in June."

John Piper will be adapting his original scenery for the characteristically skeletal conditions of the Britten-Pears School - end-of-term performance, and there will be two casts of young singers, taking roles originally created by Benjamin Luxon, Peter Pears, John Shirley-

Quire, Jennifer Vyvyan, Janet Baker and Heather Harper.

The Britten-Pears School has played a large part in the evolving role of the festival. Its presence has encouraged the concept of a complete or in-residence, working with the school and its orchestra. Last year it was Lutoslawski, and this year Toru Takemitsu will give the festival its central focus. "Oliver Knussen is the one who really got that going. Takemitsu is a distinguished composer from another culture, whose music we shall be able to explore through works like *A Flood of Desires* into the *Pentagonal Garden*, to be given its British premiere by the CBSO and Simon Rattle, and in four films for which he wrote the music."

And there is to be more new Britten: a hitherto undiscovered Gerard Manley Hopkins setting to be performed by the BBC Northern Singers. Is there much more unknown Britten waiting to be brought to light? "Well, Donald Mitchell, who has the archives, does find these odd pieces, and I'm sure there are loads of songs still unpublished. But perhaps not a lot more mature stuff. Though who knows? We had great fun three years ago digging out some of the theatre music, and it'll be a long time until that's heard again."

How does Aldeburgh fit into

Stewart Bedford's developing career? "Things took a slightly different turn when the English Music Theatre finally folded, and the opera side of my activity faded a little. I started to go to Seattle, where I took on the English Sinfonia, which is still an immensely important part of my work. After *The Rape of Lucrece* at the Coliseum, Bedford still professes to be flexible enough to take on a wide variety of work with the National Opera Studio, for instance, taking commissions to Chile, a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Canada, or a new opera based on a Neruda play for Cologne next season.

"The biggest challenge at the moment is simply to find a programme to build around my *Death in Venice*, since for this summer at Aldeburgh it's a sort of bird's-eye view of the opera - the overt, beach dances, realization of love, infatuation, chase, and back to the beach. But we've had terrific difficulties cutting back on most expensive concerts, and this one needs trombones, tuba, five percussion, as well as the average chamber orchestra. So we have to find other pieces with lots of percussion and only a small complement of strings. I have got some ideas now, and I just hope we might be able to rescue it."

The Dance of Death
Arts, Cambridge

Strindberg considered *The Dance of Death* to be his best play and - having seen this production endorsed by the Olivier version - I have never understood why it is thought necessary to take the work in hand and correct its excesses. Nobility thinks of telling lies when he ought to have written:

Darremont's play, *Staged*, which converted the piece into a comic sporting event, was one example of this unhelpful protest. Now T. Whitehead adapts Strindberg's marital prison into one of total claustrophobia, closing up all avenues of escape and trading with a cyclic recap of the opening lines where Edgar and Alice are glumly contemplating another evening in each other's detested company.

In a programme note, Mr Whitehead acknowledges the "enormous influence" of *The Dance of Death* on postwar drama. But the trouble with looking at the piece through a back perspective of Osborne, Albee and Mr Whitehead's own work is that the main attention focuses on the character of Edgar - the viciously sour captain who hauled himself up through the ranks and married into the gentry. Edgar's dialogue crackles marvellously in Mr Whitehead's version, spraying out army slang and the murderous coinages of the domestic battlefield. Unfortunately, the same does not go for his wife, Alice or their luckless visitor Kurt, whose language remains untouched by any personal fire.

This insistence dictates the quality of Gordon McDougall's Oxford Playhouse production. There is nothing wrong with Barbara Jefford's Alice and David Collings's Kurt except that they are no match for Reginald Marsh's Edgar. What the show presents is an unequal combat between two straight players and a master joker.

Anthony Masters



Kenny Ireland (right) as the beery slob who gets the laughs, with Stevan Rimkus

Fortunately for us, these are witty people and the bleak ironies of their interplay are sketched in with the light touch they need. William Gaskill's production has this in hand but, like his recent *Sie Stieps* and *Relapse* at this address, is inexplicably muted. On this big stage, this little play needs more spirit and speed. Most of the laughs went to Kenny Ireland, in his element as the beery slob Eddie pursuing Phil's mother's girlfriend (did you get that?), lurching cockily between catastrophes, a doomed amateur in the boys' semi-criminal demi-monde.

But Stevan Rimkus and Douglas Sannachan, only needing a bit more projection to fill out alert and touching portrayals, grasp the essential underpinning element: the dominating commercial sense that makes any job seem like prostitution rewritten, that keeps Eddie's girlfriend stringing him along and even motivates Richard's record purchases. Robert McIntosh expertly doubles a selection of pathetic clients with a very nasty pederastic pimp sporting a Disraeli toupee and a flick knife.

Concert
Unconventional driveLSO/Lloyd/Mata
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The Great British Music Festival, having endured some violently unfavourable press criticism and disappointing audiences, lumbered back on Tuesday for its second leg of three concerts, with a programme which was about the most purposeful of the six.

It included a really great British piece, Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony, and it presented a new work: George Lloyd's Fourth Piano Concerto slipped through the festival's time limit of 1975 because it was written in outline in 1970, although only scored last year.

From operas for pre-war Covent Garden and the post-war Festival of Britain to market gardening in Dorset and back to full-time composing is a refreshingly unconventional career for a composer and Lloyd's music, too, is refreshingly unconventional in its confidence and drive.

This Concerto is certainly lively, weaving from the sliding unisons of its opening to the cheerfully Waltonian sequences of the finale, while at times giving a whiff of inter-war British lyricism in the Bliss-Lambert vein and even a touch of light-hearted Stravinsky, in his *Caprizzo* mood.

There are some startlingly lovely moments which demonstrate that Lloyd is a composer of real sensitivity - none more so than the evaporation of the

first movement shortly before its close into misty harmonies and gentle piano sonorities. That achieved an eloquence that the bigger, self-consciously Rachmaninov-like tunes did not quite attain (and the slow section of the finale was positively sanctimonious by comparison).

At times the writing seems rather crude, as when the piano's spiky running thirds are pitted against a three-note figure in the brass. And there is often an uncomfortable feeling of a lack of direction, both harmonic and stylistic: one feels the music could twist itself into and out of any corner.

The composer directed this exuberant first performance, in which Kathryn Stott played the solo part with quite remarkable forthrightness and command. The LSO seemed to be back on form again: under Eduardo Mata, Walton's *Partita* at the start of the concert was a miracle of effectiveness with not a glimmer of content, while Vaughan Williams's Sixth emerged - until the Epilogue lost momentum - as uncommonly strident and angry. It was less a picture of the Second World War than a cry of pain and a lament for a world that war overturned for ever.

Nicholas Kenyon

● The 1984 Ian Whyte Award for composers has been won by John Marlow Rhye. His new work, to be composed for the Scottish National Orchestra, will be premiered in the spring of 1985.

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The composer directed this exuberant first performance, in which Kathryn Stott played the solo part with quite remarkable forthrightness and command. The LSO seemed to be back on form again: under Eduardo Mata, Walton's *Partita* at the start of the concert was a miracle of effectiveness with not a glimmer of content, while Vaughan Williams's Sixth emerged - until the Epilogue lost momentum - as uncommonly strident and angry. It was less a picture of the Second World War than a cry of pain and a lament for a world that war overturned for ever.

Nicholas Kenyon

● The 1984 Ian Whyte Award for composers has been won by John Marlow Rhye. His new work, to be composed for the Scottish National Orchestra, will be premiered in the spring of 1985.

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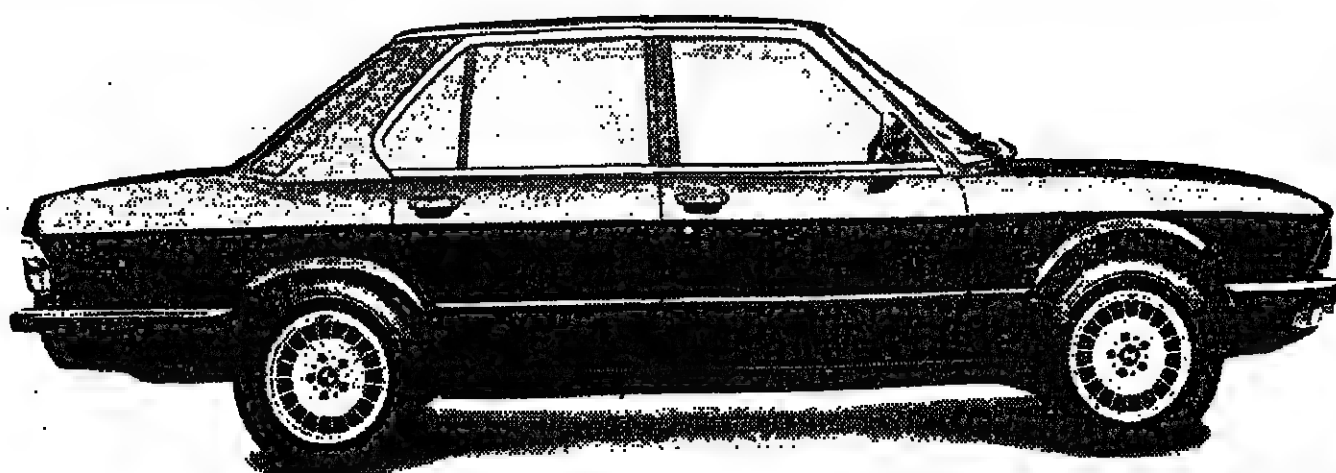
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A BATTLE LOST

The withdrawal of the multinational peacekeeping force from Lebanon is a severe setback for Western diplomacy. The mission of the force was to prop up Mr Gemayel's government while creating a stable environment for internal reconciliation and the negotiated withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces. The mission has failed. Instead we have turbulence, uncertainty and the ominous sight of Shiite fanatics removing alcohol from West Beirut. The May 17 agreement has probably gone for good, taking with it any immediate hope of Israeli withdrawal, let alone the wider hope of a Lebanon without any foreign armies. Gone, too, is another slice of the credibility of Western support for friendly governments in the Middle East and elsewhere. Syria emerges stronger, and the Soviets happier as they send a top man to Damascus. Mr Reagan may be electorally strengthened by being freed of the unpopular burden of keeping his man in Lebanon, but it will still be difficult to conceal the fact that his Middle East policies are as battered as the buildings of Beirut.

There are still a few optimists around mainly in Washington, who believe that something can still be salvaged from past hopes, that the shock of withdrawal may bring Mr Gemayel and others to see the need for reconciliation, that the shells of the American navy will discour-

age the Syrians from pressing their advantage too far, that somebody - perhaps even the Syrians - may yet give the Israelis the assurances they need to withdraw. After all, it is pointed out, Mr Gemayel is still president (of a few acres) with a substantial army in support, while the Syrians and the Russians know they would be unlikely to have a better chance than the Americans of controlling the fractious politics of Lebanon. So why not plug on with the same policies, lobbying shells in support of Mr Gemayel from the apparent safety of sea?

However, it seems more realistic to assume that there will have to be some more fundamental re-thinking. Mr Gemayel has lost his chance to negotiate reconciliation from a position of strength. Whether this is his fault or that of the Americans, who did not push him, is largely irrelevant. He now negotiates - if at all - from a position of weakness. Meanwhile Syria has even less reason than before to be accommodating, having demonstrated that it can afford to ignore American pressures. The Soviets too, have no good reason to use their influence on behalf of compromise at this stage. They will first wish to rub salt in Western wounds. After that they will want to use their advantage to win a place for themselves at any future negotiating table. But they are likely to be cautious. They have been

made acutely aware by Iran and Afghanistan of the uncontrollable fires that can burn within the Muslim breast. They will not wish to fan the flames too much.

Hence there remains a chance that the situation will not become worse than it already is. That is not saying much; but then Lebanon has suffered this particular agony for eight years now. Probably there is very little more that the Western powers can now do in Lebanon itself. They should avoid further direct intervention and concentrate on achieving a bloodless withdrawal of American and other forces.

Efforts to retrieve the situation will have to be pursued elsewhere on a wider diplomatic canvas, taking in other Arab countries and Israel. Whether the United Nations can play a useful role at this stage is doubtful. A United Nations force would either have to be large enough to dominate the whole of Lebanon, which is out of the question, or it would have to be accepted by all the relevant factions in Lebanon as well as all members of the Security Council, which presupposes a political agreement which is still out of sight. Probably, therefore, it is time for the foot soldiers of diplomacy to do some hard slogging before the ground can be cleared sufficiently for grand strategies to emerge. Meanwhile Beirut burns, and the Syrian must smile.

SITTING ON A SECRET

Sir Geoffrey Howe had a rough ride yesterday morning before the Commons Select Committee on Employment. He had endured a tough two weeks since surprising the House with his statement announcing the deunionization of the Government Communications Headquarters. The Employment Committee's interest is welcome. It is right and proper that an all-party group of MPs should be the setting in which the pros and cons of the Cheltenham affair are argued at greater length. How much better it might have been for all concerned - the guardians of national security and the guardians of civil liberty alike - if a forum for ventilating the choices and the wider issues involved in securing continuity of production at GCHQ could have been found before Sir Geoffrey took the House and the bulk of his Cabinet colleagues by surprise on January 25.

There are cynics in Whitehall who suggest that the usual leakers of official information, for once, failed to live up to their reputation. If the word had been spilled a week or so before Sir Geoffrey rose at the despatch box, the critics and defenders of the Cheltenham decision could have started up the engines of claim and counter-claim in advance of an announcement and the greater shambles of the past fortnight might have been avoided. The senior bureaucracy can sometimes be too worldly-wise for its own good.

In terms of pre-statement discussion, alerting the full Cabinet to the thinking of the Prime Minister's tiny ad hoc ministerial group on the deunionization of GCHQ could only have been an advantage. The quality of Cabinet government should not be at the mercy of an exaggerated paranoia about leaks. But wider Cabinet consultation would not have been enough. Thanks partly to the nation's rich literature of spy novels, large sections of the public are convinced that Ministers disinform on security and intelligence issues as a matter of routine. The spectre of the polished Sir Oliver Lacon, the Cabinet Office's coordinator of security and intelligence in the Smiley novels, fixing his Minister's back, is a familiar sight. It is etched on the public consciousness.

What is needed is some utterly secure body, trusted by those in the outer as well as the inner circles of public life, to give its seal of probity to the Government on contentious issues as they arise. The Security Commission does that. But it can only conduct post-mortems into past security lapses. It could not have helped Mrs Thatcher in March, 1981 when the Hollis affair erupted. Nor could it have been used as a sounding board for the Cheltenham decision. A new body is required.

The model is easy enough to

find - the Falkland Islands Review Committee of 1982. The Prime Minister trusted Lord Franks and his fellow Privy Counsellors to see every scrap of paper on the subject produced by Whitehall and its intelligence organizations from 1965 to April, 1982. Why not establish a permanent equivalent of the Franks Committee? A joint House of Commons-House of Lords Select Committee of Privy Counsellors on security and intelligence, made up of former prime ministers, foreign, defence and home secretaries would be trusted by middle opinion, which at the moment is distinctly uneasy about the GCHQ decision, if not by those who inhabit the fantasy world of the hard left.

It would have been to Sir Geoffrey's advantage to make his first Select Committee appearance on Cheltenham not before the Employment Committee but before such a group of Privy Counsellors. If he had managed to convince them, they could have reported to that effect on the day the Commons statement was made. If not, they might have persuaded him either to think again before the issue was made public with all the potential loss of face that involved, or at least to polish up the presentation of his case. That his case is fundamentally a good one is a secret almost as closely guarded by Sir Geoffrey as all the other secrets he is trying to protect.

moreover a bargaining counter for which some similar quid pro quo should be exacted. But now that negotiations would seem to have started, this could be considered over-cautious, given that the security situation does not demand it.

It is unlikely that Argentina would take advantage of such a step to threaten the Falklands, and in the present political climate it is a risk worth taking anyway.

The removal of the zone would be more likely to secure a declaration over the end of hostilities than would the maintenance of it. To dispense with it would ease the workload on the British garrison - and might indeed enable it to be reduced without implying any diminution in British resolve. Moreover it would show the international community that Britain recognizes how much encouragement President Alfonsín needs to consolidate his new power, and that Britain is thus prepared to make the running in the negotiations to achieve greater stability in the South Atlantic.

The orthodox Whitehall view is that this should not be agreed unless Argentina declared simultaneously a formal ceasefire. The zone, it has been argued, is a necessary security measure and

The Soviet view

From Mrs Elizabeth Young
Sir, Mr Enoch Powell writes (feature, January 26): "The Commonwealth is not... an entity at all except in make-believe." The Soviet view is different. Last year a listener to the Moscow Home Service programme, "International Situation: Questions and Answers", was told that:

... the Commonwealth is a complicated association of independent states and also dependent territories...

Although the united defence system of the Commonwealth disintegrated at the start of the 1950s, the special relations of these countries with Britain in the military sphere still remain. Officers from many countries of the Commonwealth are trained at British military educational establishments. British instructors on the spot are engaged in training the armed forces of the countries of the Commonwealth, the majority of which still depend on deliveries of British weapons.

It must be noted that Britain continues to have a strong ideological influence on these countries. A whole system has been elaborated which allows such a policy to

be conducted. A special service, the British Council, is engaged in this. Britain continues to implement control of the press, radio, television, higher education, and the development of science and technology of the countries of the Commonwealth.

On the whole one can say that Britain has been able to adapt better than other colonial states to the disintegration of its empire.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
January 26.

Making marriages real and actual

From Canon G. B. Bentley
Sir, If marriage is to be made terminable after only one year, I think it would be sensible to make it voidable rather than dissoluble. A marriage that comes to grief during the first "honeymoon" year may be said to have crashed on the runway and failed to get off the ground and it seems reasonable to infer from the disaster that it must have been gravely defective *ab initio*.

It could be that the parties' knowledge of each other had been so defective that in effect they committed themselves to figments of their imagination and not to actual persons. Or they may have entertained a false image of marriage and cohabitation and found themselves unable to cope with the reality. Or again it could be that one or other of them was quite simply unfit for marriage. Whatever the cause, no real and actual marriage has been achieved.

In my opinion there is much to be said for treating the first year of marriage as integral to its "making". *Consensus facit matrimonium* is true in the sense that when vows are exchanged a putative marriage comes into existence; but that marriage remains in potentiality until it is actualized by consummation and cohabitation.

Parliament recognized that when it made marriage voidable on the ground of wilful refusal to consummate. What I am suggesting is that failure to achieve satisfactory cohabitation during the first year should be made an additional ground.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
5 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle,
Berkshire,
February 6.

Privilege at risk

From the Reverend J. P. Haldane-Stevenson

Sir, Following a verbal attack in the South Australian Parliament on a sitting royal commission the Australian Government is proposing to legislate "to abrogate or otherwise affect" state parliamentary privileges, particularly of free speech. Representations in writing were invited and Senate committee hearings will shortly be held.

Freedom of speech has hitherto been subject only to the various Parliaments' own rules. Unsuitable comment on sitting royal commissions could surely be contrived by voluntary extension of the *sub judice* rule. The present proposal is of concern to the whole British Commonwealth.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. HALDANE-STEVENS,
3 Argyle Square,
Ainslie Avenue,
Canberra 2601,
Australia,
January 28.

Support for dissidents

From Mr Alexander Zinoviev

Sir, May I make one correction of Alan Hamilton's article (January 19) about my "gloomy logic." He reports me as saying about the Soviet dissident movement: "many people in the West supported the dissident movement believing they could bring about change in the Soviet Union. They failed utterly." So far correct.

"All they did was to provide the Soviet government and the KGB with valuable experience in dealing with dissidents." This last sentence does not describe my opinion. Failure to change the system should not deter the West from protesting. If it is to be its true self, it must oppose injustice and arbitrary rule everywhere. Moreover, protests do sometimes gain freedom for the victims.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER ZINOVIEV,
Normanstrasse 25,
Munich 81,
West Germany,
January 19.

Sellafield discharge

From Dr B. O. Wade

Sir, The assertion that "scientists do not know how dangerous radiation is in its various forms" by Ms Lesley Abdela (January 16) is inconsistent with a considerable body of scientific evidence.

It is well established from a number of investigations that we can detect no deleterious effects from the natural background radiation, present in a variety of forms throughout the evolution of the human race and varying significantly between different locations.

It is also well established that substantial groups exposed to radiation in many forms at levels generally several hundred times greater than the natural background, in the course of occupational, military and medical activities,

Aerial photographs

From Professor D. W. Rhind and Professor R. U. Cooke

Sir, The President of the Council for British Archaeology was right to express concern over the future of the Central Register for Aerial Photography (January 21). The air photographs recorded in this register provide both an irreplaceable source of historical information and basic data needed for much planning and research.

But Mr Hassall confounds two distinct, though related, aspects of the problem. The register is an index, not a library. Many of the million or more air photographs recorded in the register have never been held centrally (although some of those which were have already been re-distributed to their originating organisations). It is the index itself, not the actual photography, which is the critical element

Crucial questions before a summit.

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, In his article, "A breathing space to think afresh" (January 20), David Watt concedes the difficulty of holding a dialogue between the superpowers while President Andropov is out of action and President Reagan is campaigning. He goes on to suggest some crucial questions on which we ought to focus in the interval before any summit meeting takes place.

May I attempt a contribution to answering these?

1. How expansionist is the Soviet Union?

The history of Russia is one of expansion. The Czars expanded into the Caucasus, central Asia and Siberia. Stalin, postwar, expanded into Eastern Europe and, for a time, into China. Khrushchev reconquered Hungary and established Soviet influence over Cuba. Brezhnev reconquered Czechoslovakia, occupied Angola, Ethiopia, Aden and Afghanistan. Together they have developed an ocean-going navy and long-range military transport force.

The track record speaks for itself, but there is also a deep-seated reason for this expansionist dynamic. Successive Russian regimes have rested on the power of the military, and the reason d'être of the military is to expand. Stalin, between the wars, when he turned his back on world revolution, shot the generals by the hundred.

The military-industrial complex has become by far the most powerful as well as the most privileged economic and social force in the Soviet Union, with virtually absolute control over the allocation of resources.

To be sure, the Americans also have a powerful military-industrial complex, but the President and Congress do not depend on it for their physical protection against their own people. The US Army is not a Praetorian Guard. The Red Army is.

Any realistic Western statesman must therefore regard the Soviet

Union as a dynamic power driven by its own structure as much as by its ideology.

2. How far are we trying to change the Soviet system and how far merely to manage the status quo? If we succeed in containing Soviet expansionism, or rolling it back where it is not already established, (e.g. Afghanistan), then the absolute priority which the Soviet military now enjoys in the allocation of resources will lose much of its justification.

Pressures will grow for improvements in living standards and for greater independence for the subject nationalities and Moscow's allies. This in turn would tend to lead to the relaxation of the central control which prevails over the whole of Soviet society today.

Soviet society as it now exists must expand or change drastically. If our objective is to halt its expansion we shall be encouraging changes in the status quo even if that is not our main intention.

3. How far dare we bring the Russians into collaboration in areas of Third World crisis like the Middle East?

If there are crises in the Third World, as distinct from underlying causes of discontent, this is mainly because the Soviets have chosen to involve themselves in them. How then do we deal with their involvement?

Short of an agreed withdrawal of both superpowers in favour of the United Nations there are probably only two options available. One is to bring about the withdrawal of the Soviets from the main crisis areas.

The other is to agree their partition into spheres of interest such as the Western powers agreed with Hitler at Munich or later with Stalin at Yalta. In neither case did Western concessions do much to dampen the appetite for expansion. Let him that readeth understand.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
January 26.

Indo-China rebels

From Mr Graham Greene, CH.

Sir, I have the impression that Mr Louis Allen (January 24) is only half informed about the situation in Hanoi when Trevor Wilson was made persona non grata by General de Lattre.

It is quite true (I once had a conversation with Monsieur Soustelle on the subject) that the American OSS were not trusted in Algeria by the French authorities. The OSS were playing the silly game of finding a non-existent Third Force, as they also did in Vietnam, a force which would be anti-Communist and anti-French (colonialist).

This had nothing to do with Trevor Wilson in Vietnam. For his services in Algeria during the war he had been decorated by General de Gaulle.

When the Chinese forces occupying Haiphong were proposing to resist the landing of General Leclerc, Wilson, as British Consul General in Hanoi, gave a lift in his jeep under the British flag to General Salan, whose uniform was hidden in the boot. The General put it on after his arrival at the Chinese headquarters.

M25 land values

From Mr David Richards

Sir, The rise in property values along the M25 motorway, reported by your Property Correspondent (January 25), is as inevitable as was the rise in oil company share prices following the discovery of North Sea oil.

The only difference is that the capital gains in the latter case accrued to those whose capital provided the breakthrough, whereas in the former case they will accrue to property owners completely external to the production process.

The financial returns to the taxpayer's investment in the M25 and in all such projects are the land values arising. Yet the amounts that

show an enhanced rate of fatal malignancies in the region of 1 per cent.

Whilst we do not understand the fine detail of the process at the cellular level responsible for this radiation induction of malignancies - if we did we might be well on the way to finding a cure - there can be no doubt that we know sufficient to limit the risk from radiation exposure to any level we choose.

Moreover, we can measure radiation levels with great sensitivity, down to levels far below those of concern to health.

The clear intention of the internationally recommended protection measures is to ensure that the radiation risk to the general public is negligible; the available scientific evidence is quite adequate for this purpose. These protection measures are enforced in this

without it, a search for air photography would involve contacting many individual organisations.

Using a properly constituted index, a search for photography of a particular type for a given area would be simple, cheap and could be carried out within minutes. Yet the way to do this successfully is not to continue with the existing, manual system. As the number of photographs rises, the difficulty of searching for those which meet the users' needs increases enormously and the effort, cost and delay rise accordingly.

Converting the index to a computerised form would obviate such problems and the results could be integrated with existing developments in the British Library and elsewhere; sufficient experience now exists to create such geographical information systems. Provided that commercial firms, the Ordnance Survey and others contribute details

and successfully arranged a peaceful landing for General Leclerc.

Whether in the eyes of history this was to prove a good thing, who can say? Certain it is that money Trevor Wilson rendered a signal service to France, which General Salan did not forget.

General de Lattre was another matter. In 1951 Trevor Wilson and I had visited the Bishop of Phat Diem, who had a private army of a sort aiding the French.

Unfortunately, before my return to Indo-China de Lattre had, for personal reasons, attached his son to a Vietnamese company fighting with the French in the Bishop's region, and he had been killed in an ambush. De Lattre, a sick man, connected his death with our visit to the bishop. Here were three dubious Catholics somehow getting together...

In the three years that followed I had, as a correspondent of *The Sunday Times* and the *Figaro*, excellent relations with General Salan, but the damage had been done as far as Trevor Wilson was concerned.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM GREENE,
Anibes.

are recovered for the relief of the taxpayer through development land tax are desisory.

Is it not amazing that we should continue to allow the financial viability of huge capital projects to be undermined in this way? How much better off would this country be if the land values arising externally from all economic activity were immediately recovered for the relief of the taxpayer by an annual charge on land rents, such as site value rating or its national equivalent?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RICHARDS,
78 Parkfields Road,
Bridgend,
Mid Glamorgan,
January 26.

country by the mandatory authorities to safeguard the health of the public in a manner analogous to the way they safeguard our water and food supplies.

In the case of radiation, the practical result is that no member of the public is exposed to more extra radiation dose than might be received by moving from one part of the country to another where the natural background is higher. The associated risk is known to be quite negligible, demonstrating that the intention is being achieved.

Yours faithfully,
B. O. WADE,
Environmental and Medical Sciences Division,
UK Atomic Energy Authority,
AERE Harwell,
Oxfordshire,
January 20.

of their holdings and conscientiously up-date the register, they could reasonably expect to suffer very few time-wasting inquiries and to achieve greater sales of their existing photography.

There is a clear national need for a single, permanent and efficient computerised index of aerial photography that is comprehensive, easily used and compatible with indexes of maps and satellite images. We note that such a computerised index is also recommended in today's report by the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology on remote sensing and digital mapping.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RHIND (Birkbeck College),
R. U. COOKE (University College London),
University of London,
7-15 Gresse Street, W1,
February 8.

Ravaged relics of our rural heritage

From Mr Peter V. Addyman

Sir, Lest it should be thought that the ravaging of the country heritage described by Lord Melchett and others (February 6) be confined to East Anglia, or that its effects be confined to the natural environment and landscape, I hasten to report to you an horrific description given to Group 4 of the Council for British Archaeology last weekend on the ravaging of our Yorkshire landscape as seen through the lens of an archaeological air photographer.

In photograph after photograph we were shown the effects of deep ploughing, which was evidently paring a fresh layer off long-buried ancient monuments each year, to be deposited upside down on the field surfaces and photographed in the brief moment before dispersal.

There were deserted medieval villages, formerly considered prime examples of their type, now bulldozed flat and spread across the landscape. There were whole ancient landscapes, no longer enjoying the subtle protection provided by mature hedge systems, themselves the artefacts of a millennium of landscape development, being wiped from the face of the county.

The group also heard that, through some extraordinary loophole in the ancient monuments legislation, even certain scheduled ancient monuments, long protected by statute, could now legally be flattened, as hideously happened on January 9 this year to the formerly well preserved earthworks of the grange of St Mary's Abbey, York, at Foston, near Malton.

It is evident that the present secretaries of state for the environment and for agriculture are between them jointly presiding over what is for some areas the final destruction of the historical landscape. One of them, aided by EEC agricultural grants, is even financing the holocaust.

Can we hope that the new Commission on Historic Buildings and Monuments, which will come into being on April 1, will have courage enough, and teeth sufficiently strong, to fight for what little remains?

Yours faithfully,
PETER V. ADDYMAN,
Vice President, Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kennington Road, SE11,
February 6.

Non-unionism at GCHQ

From Mr S. C. Silkin, QC

Sir, During the "winter of discontent" the Callaghan Government was fighting a desperate battle to restrain the evil of rising inflation. Unlike the Thatcher Government it had a water-tight majority dependent on other parties. Unlike the Thatcher Government its policy was not buttressed by three million unemployed.

That was the time chosen by the Tory Opposition, with Sir Geoffrey Howe in the forefront, to challenge the Government's constitutional right to use its sole lawful power in aid of its policy, the use of financial sanctions and the withholding of Government contracts from employers who flouted the policy.

Today the Tory Government, with Sir Geoffrey Howe in the forefront, uses financial sanctions and the withholding and termination of Government employment from employees who flout the Government policy of non-unionism at GCHQ. The only difference is that the pill is sweetened (or possibly poisoned) by the offer of a bribe of £1,000 to accept without fuss.

The result of the Tory Opposition's challenge to Labour's sanctions policy is part of history. The Labour Government had neither the time nor the majority to legislate. The Thatcher Government has always had the majority. It plainly has had and still has the time.

Legislation to remove from GCHQ employees' rights not previously challenged would have enabled the issue to be debated where it should be, in Parliament. Any suggestion that security considerations prevented the adoption of this course and justified executive action which in opposition Sir Geoffrey castigated as unconstitutional would be naive in view of the foreseeable outcry generated by the Government's action.

To echo a *Times* leader headline which remains in my personal recollection after some eight years, is it not a case of "Sir Geoffrey then and Sir Geoffrey now"? It is for Sir Geoffrey to explain and justify the removal by executive action, aided by a paltry and insulting bribe, of a long-standing right to belong to a trade union - a right, moreover, which is enshrined in the clearest terms in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Why was the apparently unconsulted Cabinet not asked at least whether it would support legislation to remove an accepted right now considered to be a source of national danger?

Yours faithfully,
S. C. SILKIN,
The Croft,
The Green, East End,
North Leigh, Witney,
Oxfordshire.

Cross words

From Mr John Frith

Sir, "Maybe," says Dr Charles Cruickshank (February 6), "your readers can add to the list?"

With pleasure, although not from the OED but from Professor Einar Haugen's excellent Norwegian-English dictionary (Universitetsforlaget, Oslo, 1963):

"Kanskje - perhaps, maybe"...

"kanskje blir vi ferig med denne ordet på en gang" - maybe we'll finish this dictionary some time."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FRITH,
70 Clarence Road,
Teddington, Middlesex.

Television's new horizon

Britain is poised on the brink of an entertainment and communications revolution

The new age of television has dawned, at least the proponents of multichannel cable television would have us believe. Every indication suggests that, say the supporters of wide band cable networks, it will be a vehicle for carrying television pictures, information, banking services, and a plethora of facilities brought to the viewer at the touch of a switch. At least that is the theory.

The practice is about to begin in earnest this year, putting pressure on the finances of the conventional broadcasting channels in the process. Eleven companies have already been granted franchises to operate multichannel systems, probably with a capacity of about 30 channels, while another 11 have been given permission to expand their existing systems.

The awarding of these licences is the completion of the first phase of the plan to introduce the technology in Britain. It does not indicate that cable has succeeded but merely that it has arrived.

But the completion of the first phase in the award of the franchises is a minor political coup which took more than two years to complete. The Information Technology Advisory Panel of the Cabinet Office started the debate on cable in the spring of 1981 and it was a debate which was to become decidedly acrimonious.

Supporters of the "revolution in high technology" were hailed, by themselves, as forward thinkers and those who opposed them as outdated Luddites. Opponents of the cable on the other hand preached caution and warned that the quality and the finances of public broadcasting were in jeopardy if the cable operators were allowed to function unbridled. Neither side has been proved right.

That compromise arose because the interests of the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry were in conflict. The former wished to ensure that it was able to police the programming content of the new networks in the defence of the public good.

The Department of Trade and Industry, however, seemed more interested in relaxing the constraints that had previously shackled cable networks in Britain and use the expansion of these networks to stimulate the British electronics industry.

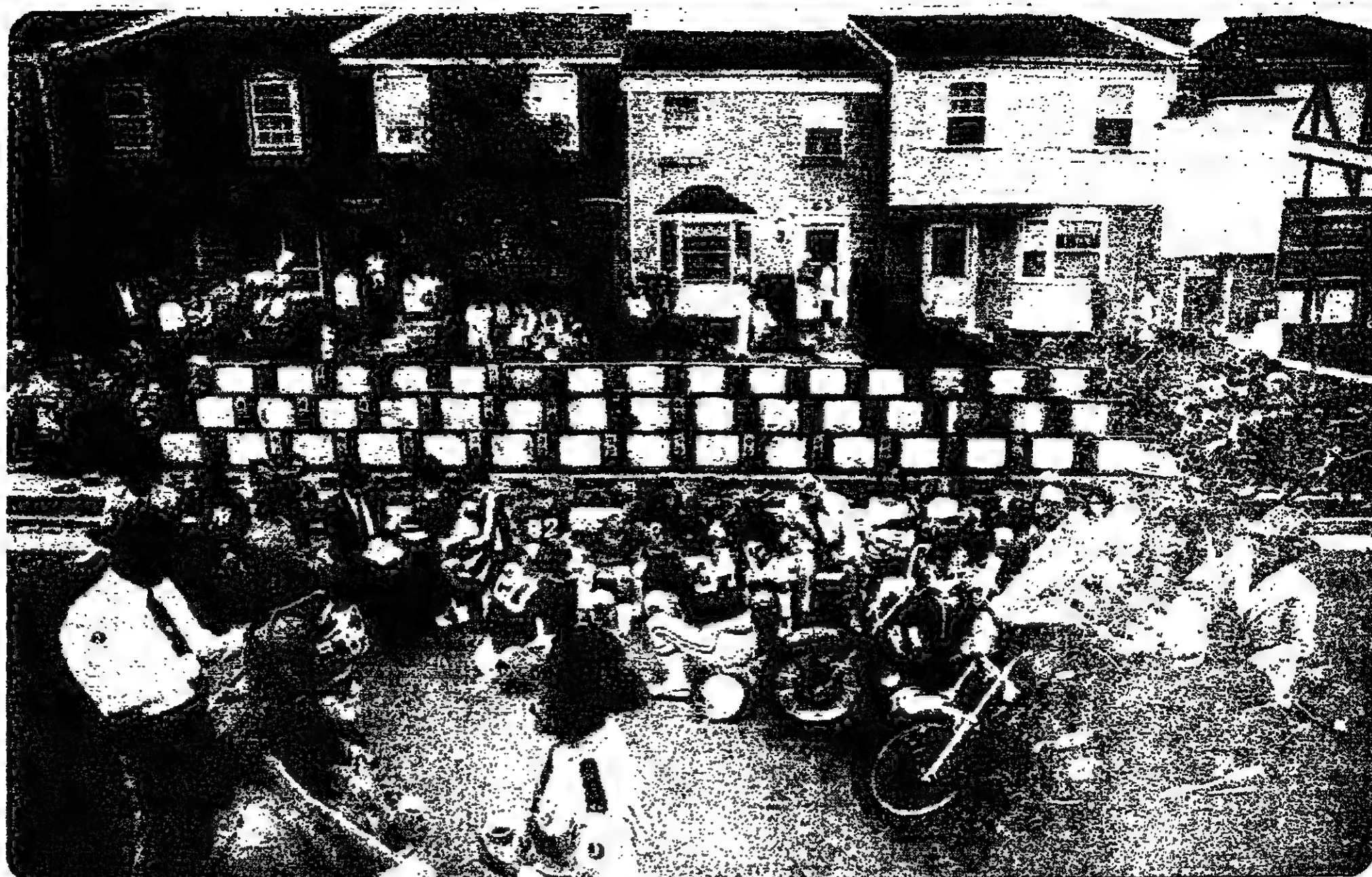
The 11 multichannel franchises were agreed to sustain the political momentum but the networks will not be in operation until a new cable authority, with a brief to police the networks, is firmly in place.

Satellites, with low and high power, are critical to the cable revolution. The Government as yet has been unable to unravel the complexities that result from satellite transmission. The policy on broadcasting by satellite was principally geared towards Direct Satellite Broadcasting (DSB) by which programmes could be beamed straight to homes equipped with the appropriate antenna and the electronics. The BBC were to be the British pioneers of that service and technology.

The economics of the project have been scrutinized by the BBC for more than a year. The corporation's misgivings came to a head at the end of last year when its board decided to postpone the launch date of the satellite - at least that was the official version. What has become clear is that the BBC has lost confidence in the economics of a service that would cost it about £170m investment over the seven-year lifetime of the satellite and a further £180m in operating costs, beginning in 1986.

The expected expansion of cable with which the corporation would have to compete has disturbed it and altered its economic calculations dramatically. The appearance of low powered satellites able to distribute their programmes to cable television operators who would then redistribute them locally was the most disturbing innovation.

The first of these to be launched and become operational is the European Com-



The American experience: what cable and satellite TV can mean to a small community. Leesburg, Virginia, population 8,357, has a choice of 44 channels, 39 of them for a subscription of \$7 a week, and five more specialist channels. An interactive cable system also means that citizens can shop, bank and vote from their TV sets. Picture: Ferorelli/Colorific

munication Satellite (ECS-1) which was launched last summer from Kourou in French Guiana on board an Ariane rocket of the European Space Agency (ESA). ECS-1 represents the first of a series of five satellites which will orbit 22,300 miles above the surface of the earth and able to communicate between most countries in western Europe. The nine transponders or channels on the first have been allocated by Eutelsat, the European Satellite Organization representing 20 European governments/telecommunication authorities.

Two have been allocated to Britain, two to West Germany and one each to Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Only one of the British have so far been assigned by British Telecom. That has gone to

Satellite Television, the group which is 65 per cent owned by News International, owners of Times Newspapers, The News of the World and The Sun. By the summer of this year it will be beaming eight hours of programming into Britain during prime time.

Another critical ingredient which will be fundamental in deciding whether cable/satellite is to succeed will be the programming, the cost of that programming to the operators and ultimately to the subscribers. Despite the fact that the cable networks are local and only encompass about 100,000 homes, a great deal of their programming will come from international sources and be distributed nationally by satellite.

This type of distribution is

being offered as a service by both Mercury and British Telecom which are setting up satellite earth stations in London docklands to accommodate the expected demand.

Television is an expensive medium. Modest programming costs in the region of £30,000 an hour while a full costed drama could cost nearly £1m an hour. It is unlikely that cable will ever be able to afford the latter and the former might well be outside the budget of most companies during the initial years of start-up. That is the Catch 22. Without the programming there are no subscribers, and without the subscribers there is no money for programming. Satellite distribution helps to spread the cost.

Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

Not a licence to print money

It seems odd but the established operators of cable television were comparatively unsuccessful in their attempts to obtain franchises for the second generation cabling of Britain. Some systems - like Visionhire's British Relay Wireless - have been around since the 1930s so there is no lack of experience.

The cynical view is that old hands like Visionhire and

Rediffusion (which was successful with one application) were too pessimistic about the profitability of the new cable franchises; the companies which won - many are consortia with members of impeccable financial experience but little technical expertise - were rather too optimistic in their assumptions.

The established operators do have some advantages - they already have their existing networks, albeit using mostly old fashioned narrow-band cables.

These operators have a head start on the newcomers but the advantages are limited. Visionhire hopes to have converted at least some of its 55 networks to four-channel systems, piping in programmes direct to homes using existing cables. But under the Government's rules they must provide the existing

subscribers with a free aerial to pick up the standard BBC and ITV services. Fruitless negotiations with local authorities who believe operators make vast profits from cable means that some networks will be closed down.

The problem is that the existing systems were built for a different purpose - to improve reception of the standard broadcast services. They were built between 1930 and 1950. Visionhire estimates that to replace the cable serving its 250,000 subscribers would cost £300m. Its cable operation is certainly not a licence to print money - its parent company, Electronic Rentals, lost £2.5m on cable services last year.

However, the main concern of the existing operators is not

Continued on page 111

Tomorrow on-line today

W. H. Smith Cable Services has been established to assist in the profitable growth of cable systems, through our video games, computer services and interactive programming.

Our Games Network offers the finest and most extensive international selection of high power video games, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our large library of titles includes a growing number of sophisticated role-playing and educational games.

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WHSMITH CABLE

Who's watching what?

The battleground is the living room of the B-tish family. The stakes run into millions of pounds. The outcome, even for those who have studied the many mysteries of media research is as fickle as the flick of a switch will allow.

The cable revolution is just around the corner and it is not only television as we currently know which will never be the same again. Imagine the average cabled family in three years time. Both BBC channels are still there, along with ITV and Channel 4, unchanged, at least for the moment. In competition with them for the viewers' attention are at least two major feature film channels.

Each costs an extra £10 a month on top of the basic cable fee of £8, and tonight there is a choice between Superman 5 on one and Tootsie II on the other. The conflict need not cause much heartsearching. The films appear at different times on other nights, so even if the family has not yet recorded one on their laser disc machine, there is another chance later.

Where there might be some argument is in the study, the home of the second set.

The 10-year-old wants to use the rented microcomputer linked to the set to play the latest adventure game. It looks nothing like the electronic space invaders of today. Live cinema action has been recorded on the laser disc player, and it is manipulated on the screen by his use of the computer joystick. When his jet aircraft dives into Death Valley, he is seeing the real thing.

The new battleground will be in your living room

The 15-year-old, on the other hand, would very much like to take a look at how her practice paper on English literature fared with the education channel examiner when she answered a mock test set on the computer last week. With the exam itself coming up in a few days, she needs to know what sort of grades she can expect.

The father is equally anxious to use the computer's interactive facilities through the head end computer at the cable company's headquarters. He wants to flick through his bank statements to see if his pay cheque has arrived, and there's a new family finance program on offer which might help him decide whether to apply for a second mortgage. If he does want one, the forms are waiting to be displayed on the screen so he can have an answer the next morning.

It sounds like science fiction, but it is nothing of the sort. The technology for all these developments is already established or will be so within a year.

All that is required is the cable network to distribute them, and a public willing to pay for them.

There is no doubt that the

most popular services, and the ones which will be the most profitable of the programming companies initially, are the film channels. Three major film cable consortia have emerged to fight it out for the nation's attention. The Television Entertainment Group consists of Home Box Office, the pioneering cable network which now has 13 million subscribers in the US. Goldcrest Films and Television, 20th Century Fox, and Columbia. United Cable Programmes is made up of Rank Trident, Plessey, Rediffusion and UIP, the latter being itself a joint venture by several Hollywood film companies. Finally, there is Thorn EMI, which has plans for a first-run feature film channel, Premier, a pop channel, Music Box, a children's venture, Jack in the Box, and a telesoftware channel which sells software for home computers.

Two sports channels have announced their intention to offer only sport and leisure coverage, and British Cable Programmes, says it will be the only company offering regular coverage of the performing arts.

The Games Network, run by W H Smith with an American partner, is undoubtedly the most adventurous cable project of the moment. Initially, it will simply offer video games to be played on a £300 64K Japanese-made microcomputer which is included in the £10-£11 monthly rental. But later the system will expand into interactive home shopping facilities and financial and home banking projects.



Home and away: Producer Nicky Mideo in the control room of Swindon Cable, one of Britain's newest cable stations, and some of the viewing choices facing New Yorkers recently in just 90 minutes

Thursday Evening Programs			
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CABLE AND SATELLITE TV

Playing the rent – buy game

To rent or buy? That's a dilemma which will face television viewers many times in years to come. The television rental companies, faced with competition from TV sales backed by more reliable sets and five-year guarantees at an additional price, have struck back. Their theme is that the broadcasting revolution will make it more difficult for the television owner to keep up with the latest technology without buying a new set every few years. The renter, on the other hand, can simply exchange his old set for one which can cope with new forms of transmission for little or no extra cost.

It is an argument which has no positive resolution, and another reminder that possessing a television in years to come is going to demand a lot more thought than in the good old days when there was BBC 1 and 2 and ITV, with nothing else to complicate matters.

Modern sets are, without doubt, more reliable than any of their predecessors. While their outward appearance may have changed little, apart from the arrival of the now commonplace remote control unit, behind the screen technology has made tremendous advances. Yet there will probably come a stage where the most modern of today's sets may not be able to cope with everything on offer to the viewer. When? Well, not with cable. The proliferation of satellite broadcasting is likely to be the first serious occasion when large numbers of viewers find their sets incapable of receiving a new television signal without the benefit of an add-on device.

Cable should be available to anybody with a modern television set, rented or not.

If you are one of the 900,000 lucky enough to be in the area of one of the 11 pilot cable schemes, you are likely to find out about the business fairly soon.



Neil Foster, technical manager, in the control room of Select TV at Milton Keynes which opened in 1981

Large scale promotion is the name of the game for all of the new cable networks, and with good reason, since they are trying to persuade people to part with their money to pay for a service which is completely new to all but a handful of British households. By the time the first cables come on stream, everyone who can be connected to them will know of the choice.

Most networks will charge a connection fee, probably around the £15 mark, and a monthly charge for the basic service. For this, the cable will be fed into your home and you will receive on it the existing BBC and commercial channels and their associated teletext services. The reception should be perfect and remain so night and day, and that alone may prove a boon for those households who live in a poor reception area.

But the real attraction of cable is the added choice it will give the viewer, and that costs extra. The cable networks and the companies who will provide them with their pay television

programmes are still working out their figures, which makes it hard to predict how much the new services will cost. The industry believes that a rough average for the provision of the basic service plus one premium film channel is around £15 a month. This may well vary from area to area, and, since the economics of cable dictate that the system becomes more economic the larger its subscription base, one could find that the price of entry will drop, rather than increase, as the companies try to attract more business.

Is £15 a month reasonable? It depends entirely on one's viewing habits. A video recorder owner who watches rented films at home can expect to pay £1 to £1.50 a night, and a membership fee in some cases. Clearly, if he is a regular film viewer, a cable service will not appear extortionate.

For the specialized viewing services, the exercise becomes more difficult, since there is no ready comparison to be made.

Whatever British Cable Programmes charges for its arts service, for example, it is unlikely to cost as much as one single ticket for Covent Garden. Those who decide to take one of the pay services will be tied to it for at least one month, and possibly more.

Whatever service one chooses, each subscriber will receive glossy advance magazines detailing the month's offerings and the time of their appearances. One should not expect too much of these publications; they will not have the huge advertising support which have made *Radio Times* and *TV Times* into the country's two most lucrative magazines.

The BBC and the ITV companies are defending to the death their right to the copyright of their programme schedules, effectively preventing any outside service from offering an alternative service. Such a blatant cartel against the public interest may outrage most of us, and it is rarely defended by television people in private, but it has been upheld by the courts and will probably continue for some time. This will not stop cable subscribers finding out what is on, since they will receive details from the cable networks themselves.

Should you enlist and later decide that cable television is not to your liking, simply cancel your subscription. Most British networks will be based on a new form of cable technology which precludes the need for boxes of decoders in the home to enable pay television channels to be received. The switched-star system means that the cable operator can dictate from his headquarters precisely what services you receive without the need to visit your home. If you become a "delinquent viewer", as one programme puts it, your plug is pulled from afar. It is perhaps best not to throw away that portable aerial after all.

David Hewson

Protecting a full British service

There is a little doubt that the two licensed telecommunications carriers, British Telecom and Mercury, the privately owned consortium led by Cable & Wireless, will not only be active in providing cable facilities to the cable television networks but will also be the primary distributors of programmes nationally and internationally, writes Bill Johnston.

It is the Government's intention that any cable operators will be heavily dependent on the telecommunications duopoly. Cable networks which are able to provide "interactive" services – like armchair shopping or telebanking – will be encouraged by government policy.

With the switch system technology the awarded franchise will be for 20 years. But no network, whether it has the capability or not to offer telephony the carriage of telephone calls, will be given approval

unless that particular activity is done in partnership with either of the licensed carriers.

The formulation of that policy meant that British Telecom and Mercury would be a prominent force in the new cable networks. It is no surprise that British Telecom is involved with five of the 11 franchises awarded for multichannel cable television and that at least two, Swindon and Glasgow North, have declared their intention to work with Mercury.

The Government has declared that the Mercury network, once a figure of eight, encompassing the major business centres of Britain, will be a full national service and that it will be protected from competition for seven years. It is therefore its intention that the cable network, particularly by Mercury, will offer local

telephone services in competition with British Telecom.

Both the carriers will be using London dockland sites to build their earth stations for distributing cable television programming nationally and internationally linking into the Intelsat satellite network and European Communication Satellite-1 (ECS-1) spacecraft. British Telecom will have three such antennae operational by this summer although the site has a capacity for about twice that number.

British Telecom has been aggressively formulating a strategy to commercially exploit every aspect of cable television. It created a division to ensure that and moved forward on three different fronts: the provision of cable to licensed cable operators, the distribution by satellite or terrestrial link of programming and the supply of services to the networks.

Cable money

Continued from page 1

to make money from cable but to protect their rental outlets – the television and video recorders in every home on the end of a cable. Should they want to update their systems they have the advantage of already negotiated way-leaves (the right to take cable to a house) and existing ducts.

These operators are likely to

put their own cable programmes through their systems – after dishing out free aerials – and decide whether to apply on the basis of this experience for any new franchises which may come up.

The established operators probably failed to win many of the 12 franchises on offer this time (only 11 were awarded) because they were reluctant to commit themselves to interactive (two way for home banking, home shopping, etc) systems and local programming.

A common complaint is that Kenneth Baker, the Technology Minister, wanted systems which were too esoteric.

The 11 new companies – chosen out of 37 applicants – are mainly consortia including the rental companies, providers of hardware, leasing companies and financial institutions. By joining a consortium they can protect their primary interest without shouldering too heavy a financial burden. In addition, the providers of hardware, like Thorn-EMI (which includes rental operators like Radio Rentals) and GEC, are leaders in the technological field.

Despite the diverse make up, many of the companies are remarkably similar. Costs will be high which means much of the capital cost will be shouldered through loans. This means the new cable companies are likely to be more highly geared (a higher ratio of debt to their shareholders funds) than most companies. This will lengthen the time taken to start to pay profits back to the investors.

But for the suppliers of hardware, involvement with a cable service is as much a showcase for their equipment as a commercial investment.

Plenty of complaints have been voiced that the new franchises are heavily biased to the South-East. But the Government never intended the country to be carved up on a geographical basis and the

franchise areas were self-selecting.

There are no "best" areas because much depends on what the local council charges the operator for digging up the street. The South-East seems to have done well because it is at the forefront of electronic technology who showed themselves more ready to develop sophisticated systems.

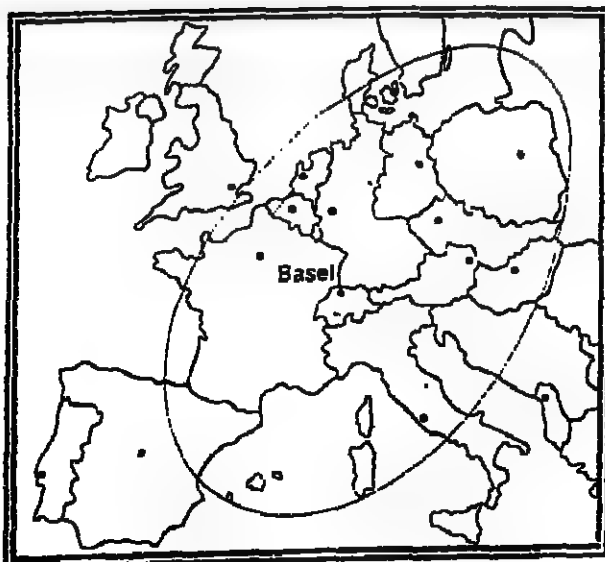
In many ways the North – where some of the established operators tried but failed to get franchises – looks a better bet than the South-East. Houses tend to be closer together, often on large estates, which makes cabling easier and more economical; northerners also tend to watch more television than their southern brethren. Demography is therefore all important.

So is the sociological make-up. Areas with what advertisers categorize C2, D and E populations are best but this research is based only on current experience and takes no account of the effects of interactive systems.

Surprisingly, London is a poor area because of the low number of children. This means the revenue from non-entertainment channels is likely to be critical to London operators.

Jonathan Clare

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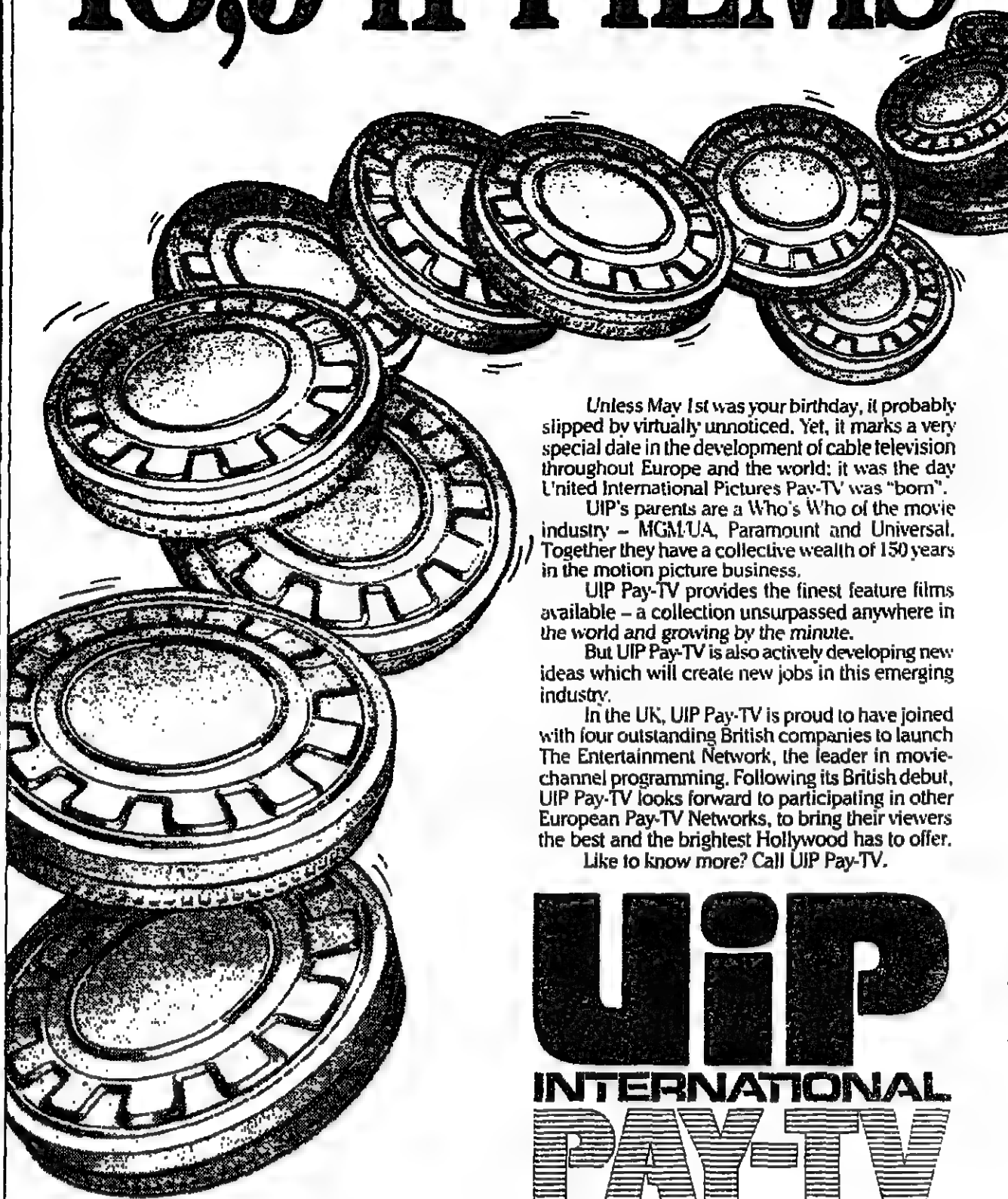
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The American experience is all important and an example which should be emulated, claim the proponents of cable and satellite television. There are an equal number who consider the US experience to be unique and one that Europe would have substantial difficulties in principally political and legal, in copying.

The United States could have been designed for cable and satellite television. The great geographical expanse of the country meant that unlike Britain, there were large areas which had difficulty in receiving the broadcasting signals of the three major networks. That phenomena in 1948 was to precipitate the installation of the first cable network in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

The advances made in satellite communication and the relaxing of the federal authorities' attitude to competition among satellite carriers - known as the American "open skies" policy - has resulted in a plethora of satellite capacity across America. There are more than 20 major companies with plans for new satellite projects.

Now every principal television programme shown on

In America, 30 million are now plugged into cable

the United States cable network is carried by satellite. There are now about 30 million cable television subscribers in the United States which is about 35 per cent of the 84 million television homes on the continent. More than 4.5 billion dollars are paid each year by these subscribers, paying on average 10 dollars a month.

Much is owed to the satellite technology. The first US domestic satellite, Westar 1, was launched by Western Union in the spring of 1974. By the autumn of the same year the second of the series was launched and a year later a

the Satellite Business Systems satellite network of which IBM, the computer giant, is a shareholder. It is the SBS satellite which is due to carry Rupert Murdoch's programming across the United States.

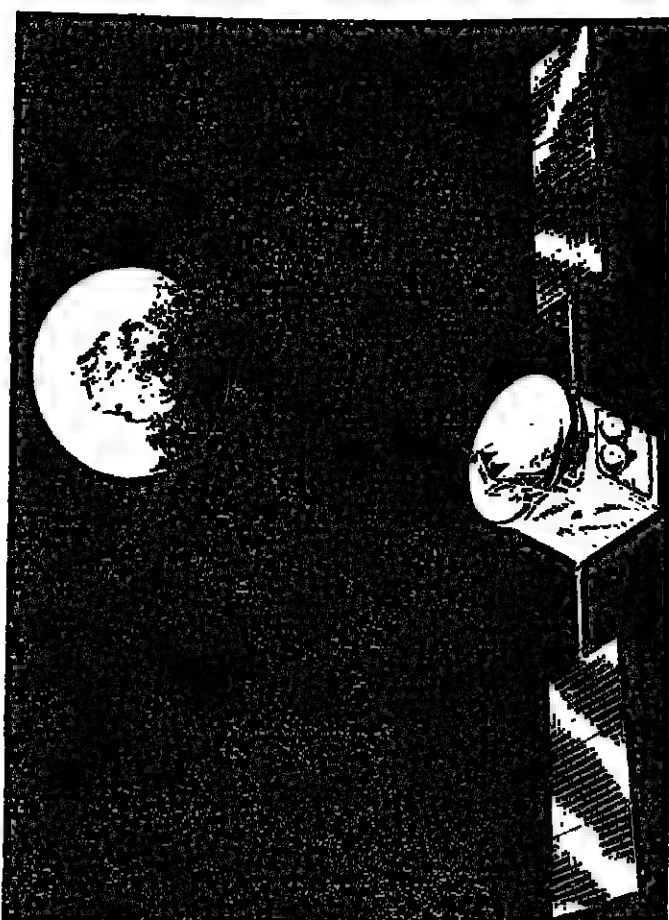
More than 30 satellite programmes are beamed each day across the United States - all of them being received by a minimum of a million subscribers. Among the leading providers of popular satellite programming is WTBS, an independent station based in Atlanta, Georgia and owned by the charismatic entrepreneur, Ted Turner. It was he who pioneered the idea of having a "super station" - a local station which beamed its programming by satellite across the United States, making it instantly a national channel.

It was Turner who used satellites in 1980 to dramatically change the coverage of television news in the United States. He created a Cable News Network (CNN) which provides 24 hours news from around the world to more than 20 million subscribers in America.

One version of the Channel CNN is continuous news in detail, while the other offers "rolling headline news". The latter is so skillfully written that it is sold to dozens of radio stations as their primary source of news.

The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) has more than 25 million subscribers and offers sport 24 hours a day. There are channels to cater to every possible taste. The top 20 channels carried by satellite include C-Span (political programmes, and live debates from the House of Representatives); MTV-Music Television (video and rock music programming); Home Box Office (film channel); Nickelodeon (children's programming); CHN (Cable Health Network); The Weather Channel; The Nashville Network (country music); and the Financial News Network.

It is the special or interactive services which have been slower to take off principally because a great deal of the cable networks in the United States are old and are in the process of being updated. About 90 per cent of



New shape in space: an artist's impression of an advanced RCA Satcom in orbit

third, Westar IV was launched in February 1982. The Western Union success was emulated at the end of 1975 by RCA with the launch of its Satcom 1 and another craft in the spring of the following year, for transmitting television pictures across the ice deserts of Alaska. RCA's Cable Net 1 satellite launched in November 1981 was to become the primary carrier of cable programming. Cable Net II was launched in January 1982.

Western and RCA were to set a pattern which was to be followed by dozens including the cable subscribers in America are connected to networks with less than 50 channels. That situation is expected to change in the next decade as these systems are upgraded.

Cables are now being installed which will have capacities for more than 60 channels and plans are being made to lay several of these at a time, thus offering networks carrying over 100 channels.

Interactive services have developed albeit slowly in comparison to the entertainment channels. Local newspapers are providing "teletext" on cable. More than 80 newspaper groups have been experimenting with this type of publishing service on cable. Warner Amex Cable Communications network QUBE in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio; Houston, Texas

and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania are examples of systems being developed to offer sophisticated interactive services like data retrieval and shopping at home.

Shoppers are catered for on the cable networks. Live auctions are shown on Gill Cable, San Diego, California; New York City cable offers Cable Video Shopper; while Televised Real Estate is a group leasing a channel from Co Cable in Spokane, Washington and Times-Mirror in California.

Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

A 2ft dish could put you in the picture

If you can find a good vantage point overlooking one of the big cities such as London, Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow or Edinburgh, scan the office-building rooftops and try to locate any dish antennas that are turned skywards.

There are not many in Britain yet, but the handful to be seen form the connecting link between a communications satellite and a customer receiving anything from television signals to computer data.

In the United States more than 5,600 of these antennas belong to cable television operators who are receiving movies and other programmes from one of the newcomers to entertainment broadcasting who have emerged on the American scene.

Communications satellites for broadcasting fall into two categories. One transmits relatively low signals which need a large expensive antenna to be received making them more suitable for a community cable television system. However, they do carry a relatively large number of channels of between 12 to 48 for each satellite and at low annual cost of £2m or £3m a channel.

Nevertheless, in the United States a number of manufacturers have produced receiving dishes about 10ft in diameter, and costing about £2,500, which enthusiasts have installed in backyards to aim at the various satellites to obtain programmes just for the picking. Operators of pay-TV networks who are being charged for franchise for a particular community and, understandably, broadcasters like Home Box Office, shout "piracy".

One plan to counter piracy involves scrambling the signals

so unauthorized users cannot decode them. But it is an inconvenience and an added cost.

The issue is about to become more tangled with the introduction of a second category of communications spacecraft - the Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS). These are designed to transmit at high power to individual home receivers with antennas less than one metre in diameter.

Because of the size and power of each DBS transmitter, only a few can be carried on a satellite. Under arrangements agreed at an international conference, and known as the Geneva Plan, each European country could have up to five channels of direct satellite broadcasting.

The DBS satellites are at an early stage of development and no system is planned with more than three active channels per satellite. A British consortium consisting of GEC, British Aerospace and British Telecom have taken a lead in this work with a vehicle called Unisat 1 that should be launched in the autumn of 1986.

It was assumed until the beginning of the year that the BBC would take two channels of direct broadcasting on Unisat.

In theory, domestic reception in Britain would need only a dish-shaped antenna two feet in diameter, which could be placed anywhere within direct view of the satellite. To receive the subscription film channel, viewers were to have paid either directly, using a coin box attached to the set which would electronically unlock that channel, or by subscription.

Unisat is designed with a working life of seven years. Furthermore, the signals would

be transmitting television in a new format. Instead of the PAL system currently used in Britain, a different format known as C-MAC developed by the IBA was chosen as a better scheme.

In one of the many twists, turns and setbacks which have plagued all really significant developments in broadcasting policy, the British DBS project has stumbled. The BBC is unable to carry the cost (£150m), and efforts to redraw the venture with the BBC and the IBA using Unisat on a shared basis have been fruitless. There is no clear sign of how the mess will be resolved.

Elsewhere, over a dozen applications have been made in the United States to the Federal Communications Commission for permission to operate a DBS.

Because of its vast size with four time zones, the United States is expected to end up with between 50 and 120 DBS channels by the end of the 80s.

A good 10 years before DBS satellites became a topic of conversation, the German Government was doing research into ways of beaming television programmes direct into homes so that it could reach residents in West Berlin more readily. Against that background, it is clear to see why proposals for a public service in Germany by direct broadcasting are more complete than for any other European country.

It is called TV-Sat. Nevertheless it will complement two powerful satellites which are intended to stimulate community cable-television TV-Sat is expected to be the first European DBS in space.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

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Continued from page 11

for the Guildford franchise which will mean heavy investment. However, its other applications, offering much simpler systems, failed.

The other side of what is a very complicated financial equation includes tax allowances, advertising revenue and the sale of hardware.

Most, if not all the consortia, which put in franchise applications built tax allowances into their plans. In particular the finance companies which have joined several consortia need capital allowances to put against tax because the tax system is biased against them. The problem is that the Inland Revenue, though it says nothing officially, believes that the ducts

What you pay

through which the cables pass are the "setting" rather than pieces of capital equipment.

Without these essential tax allowances there are murmurs that some consortia will pull out. The question of tax status should be resolved soon between the Treasury and the Inland Revenue.

Advertising revenues are difficult to judge. What is certain is that the conventional independent television stations will lose simply because there are more services for viewers to choose from so audiences will fall. This will make it difficult

for the ITV companies to increase their rates.

The local nature of cable services will mean more local advertising which will hit the local papers. Recruitment advertising is likely to take off in a big way. Programmes aimed at particular audiences, for instance do-it-yourself, could also hit specialist magazines.

Again the only real guide is the United States where after 10 years of cable it only accounts for 1 per cent of the total national spending on advertising.

In Britain the new Cable Authority will draw up advertis-

ing rules which will be similar to those already enforced by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to limit the number of minutes an hour. But it will also draw up special rules for sponsored programmes.

Many consortia members are also manufacturers of the equipment which will be used to provide the services: Thorn-EMI, Cable & Wireless, GEC and BICC, for instance. Thorn-EMI says it intends to sell a wide range of its existing services and products to all cable operators.

The supply of hardware, short term, is likely to be the first source of profits from the cabling of the country.

Jonathan Clare

London dockland's first earth station gets off the ground this month.

The station is opening in the heart of the city's dockland. Its purpose: to provide TV distribution services, via satellite, to the UK and European cable networks. The fact that we're right on target for February shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. We've never believed in leaving anything in the hands of the gods.



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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lords pursue the details of BT's private affair

The Government and its City advisers will be keeping a wary eye today on the proceedings in the House of Lords, where the British Telecom privatization Bill is entering the committee stage. In addition to the standard Labour opposition, a group of Conservative and cross-bench peers have put down a number of amendments, reflecting their unease - shared by many outsiders - about the effective monopoly they believe BT will continue to enjoy even after its flotation this autumn.

The attack is in three main areas: the need to make BT's operating licence regularly reviewable by Parliament (instead of being a 25-year-long gift in the hands of Whitehall); the need to restrict BT's right to go into the equipment manufacturing business; and the need to strengthen the powers of the regulatory authority, the Office of Telecommunications, that is being set up to monitor BT's operations and pricing policies when it becomes a private sector company.

It would be stretching one's faith in the Parliamentary process to expect a series of Government defeats at the hands of these crumpled rebels, but the Government is anxious about the strength of the campaign and may well be forced to concede one of their points. The most likely concession is Parliamentary sanction over the licence.

Any concession would be welcomed by telephone by telephone users and those, like Lord Weinstock of GEC, who want genuine rather than cosmetic competition in the industry. But restraints and modifications will not make any easier the task of Kleinwort Benson the lead bank on the issue and thus chiefly concerned with making a success of the BT flotation.

Midland's check on societies

It was only a matter of time before one of the big four clearing banks introduced a high interest bearing current account scheme, despite all protestations that bank customers wanted no such thing. In the event it is the Midland Bank which has taken the plunge with a high interest cheque account aimed firmly at the top end of the market.

In return for keeping at least £2,000 in the account, customers receive a money market rate of interest (9 per cent at present) and can write five or more cheques as they like for a minimum of £200. They can cash one cheque a day for £200 at Midland branches and have an ordinary current account which attracts no bank charges provided it is kept in credit.

Midland's scheme is a worthy challenge to the plethora of such accounts on offer from smaller competitors. It should also be a useful weapon in the long-running battle with the building societies for deposits - a battle which the banks are losing.

Having taken their deposit bases for granted for many years, bankers are now acutely conscious that retail deposits must be nurtured and fought for.

Today about half the clearing bank's sterling deposits pay interest at market rates and one danger is that every time a

bank introduces an attractive new scheme to bring in deposits, they may end simply increasing the cost of its existing deposit base rather than enlarging it. Midland has not traditionally been strongly represented at the upmarket end of the banking sector so the impact of its scheme on existing deposits may not be marked.

Midland's scheme however is unlikely to be the end of the story. At some stage the other clearing banks will surely respond. Meanwhile, Save & Prosper is planning to announce significant changes to its own high interest cheque account later this month; they may well leave Midland's looking rather out of date.

Hard words at London Brick

At the request of Hanson Trust, the Takeover Panel executive on Tuesday invoked the 39-day rule in an attempt to force London Brick to publish the asset revaluation it has prepared. This is the key part of the London Brick defence against Hanson's unwanted £212m takeover bid and it was hoping to hold it in reserve for use in the event of higher terms. The Panel ruled that it should have been in the hands of shareholders two days ago and that for every day of delay from then, a day would be added to the February 14 deadline, after which Hanson would in normal circumstances not be allowed to raise its bid.

If the deadlines were put back indefinitely it would make a mockery of the sacrosanct takeover principle that a company should not be subject to siege for more than 60 days. The Panel surely cannot be so stupid.

Meanwhile, the hard line is being pursued. "The £212m bid had already been seen off. The dismal 2 per cent acceptance level was witness to that," says Mr Marcus Agius, a director of London Brick's merchant bank, Lazard Brothers. "We have no intention of releasing information which would not be published in the normal course of business. Until Hanson raises its bid, we will not release the asset revaluation."

Mr Martin Taylor, at Hanson Trust, is equally determined to prize the asset valuation out before deciding whether the current £212m is the final offer.

Hanson's meanderings through the technicalities of the takeover code must at least indicate that it is still serious about when it merely extended its offer on Monday after receiving such a derisory level of acceptances.

The current market price of London Brick shares at 153p is above Hanson's 145p cash terms and also a little above the convertible loan stock alternative. It will have to raise the bid to win. At 165p it will be tough and go.

Some are still surprised that Hanson has chased London Brick as far as it has. There must be something in London Brick's argument that the traditional cyclical nature of its profits are a thing of the past. Combining London Brick with Hanson's own Butterley Building Materials would also create a mighty brick company with the glamorous prospect of a profitable re-flotation in five years time.

By Lorna Bourke

A 25 per cent increase in state retirement pensions, paid for by the abolition of the state earnings-related pension, is among controversial proposals for reform submitted to the Government pensions inquiry by Lord Banks, Liberal spokesman in the Lords on social security.

"The plan is a radical one which would sweep away the earnings-related pension, put everyone on contracted-in National Insurance contributions, and increase the basic retirement pension by 25 per cent," said Lord Banks.

Employees would also be given the chance to opt out of their employers' pension schemes. They would be able to choose instead a portable self-employed type of pension scheme. Employers would be obliged to contribute to em-

ployees' private pension arrangements in the same way they fund occupational pension schemes.

There would however be an upper limit on employers' contributions towards these pensions of 3 per cent of payroll.

"All those who chose not to join their occupational scheme, or who were not covered by an occupational scheme, should receive, if they voluntarily contributed to a personal pension plan, a matching contribution to that personal pension plan from their employer up to a fixed limit," said Lord Banks.

The employees would however be able to contribute a higher proportion without a matching employer contribution, though it would have to remain within the limits for self-employed pension contributions.

"These proposals would have many advantages. They would substantially increase the basic retirement pension, considerably helping those who benefit not at all or very slightly from the present earnings-related pension," said Lord Banks.

Abolition of the state earnings-related pension coupled with an increase in the basic state pension has been advocated often by those who point to the injustice of providing better pensions for those already able to make provision for themselves, while leaving those on the basic state pension in need of supplementary benefit.

"The increase would be achieved without extra cost to the Exchequer and the complicated contracted-out procedures and administration would be eliminated," said Lord Banks.

Stylo may ignore £36m bid

By Jonathan Clare

Stylo, the Bradford shoe company, may take the highly unusual step of making no formal defence against the £36.7m bid from the Hanson Queensway furniture and carpet group of Mr Phil Harris.

Stylo's merchant bank adviser, Lloyds Bank International, said it was considering such a move after receiving the formal offer document from Harris Queensway which was posted to shareholders yesterday.

Mr David Horne of LBI said: "It's exactly the same price as before, it's still conditional on 50 per cent acceptances. But holders of 50 per cent of the shares have already said the bid is not good enough so it is hardly an offer. We are therefore considering simply telling shareholders that there is no offer." This would mean Stylo would issue no formal defence document.

The tactic of ignoring a bid was successfully used by Percy Bilton last year in its defence against Trust Securities.

Mr Horne is due to meet Mr Arnold Ziff, Stylo's chairman, today to discuss the tactics. He will probably write to County Bank, Harris adviser, to demand that it substantiates the claim that 30 per cent of shareholders support the bid.

Harris message to Stylo shareholders in the offer document is that they must support the bid as a signal to the Stylo board that it must negotiate. A spokesman for County Bank said last night: "The point is that the Stylo board can sit on their hands until the 60th day and that is the end of it."

The Ziff family controls Stylo through an archaic management share structure. It also has influence over a large block of the ordinary shares held through the Rochdale Canal Co, a subsidiary of a property company with Mr Ziff on the board.

Without board agreement Harris cannot win control of Stylo even if all the other shareholders accept his 325p per share offer.

Stylo could easily mount a strong defence on asset backing from freehold high street property which is probably worth at least 500p per share.

County Bank said there was no question of a higher bid without talks with the board first.

The Stylo board has already said there is nothing further to discuss and no talks have been held since the original approach. Harris says that it has letters from holders of 30 per cent of the Stylo shares, mainly institutions, in favour of a bid.

Harris is interested in Stylo both for its property and Pennywise discount stores which are similar to its own Pound-sprecher chain.

NCB subsidy rises by another £192m

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The Government has increased its funding of the National Coal Board to cover its losses in the current financial year from £408m to £600m.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, in making the announcement yesterday, also said that if the present overtime ban by miners carried on beyond the end of next month another £80m of government funding would be needed by the NCB.

Mr Walker, in a written parliamentary answer, said: "Prospective losses on this scale underline the seriousness of the board's financial position and the extent of the industry's dependence on the Government and the taxpayer."

The deterioration in the NCB's financial position has come despite progress made by Mr Ian MacGregor, the new chairman, in reducing costs and excess output.

The revised government grant has been made necessary by a continued decline in market share and the recent severe subsidence damage at some pits.

The new government funding will also cover the cost to the NCB of measures agreed with the Government to support the foundry coking coal market, encourage the build-up of stocks by the Central Electricity



MacGregor financial decline despite higher output

Generating Board and major industrial customers, and to cover the cost of United Kingdom coal replacing cheap imports bought under long-term contracts.

Mr Walker said yesterday that although the miners' overtime ban had brought benefits to the NCB in terms of its immediate cash position any continuation of the ban until the end of March would result in Parliament being asked to approve a further £80m.

Coal stocks in Britain are higher than at the same time last year despite the 14-week ban which has cost miners £51.3m in earnings.

Tricentral to raise £55m on sale of US assets

By Wayne Lintott

In an apparent reversal of strategy, Tricentral, the independent oil exploration group, is to sell the bulk of its American onshore acreage and oil reserves in a deal that could be worth upwards of £55m.

The company refused yesterday to disclose the exact size or value of its reserves, acreage and administrative and technical staff. But it did say that its US debt of \$102m (£72.8m) "will be substantially reduced."

Tricentral has decided to concentrate its resources on 32 tracts from the Gulf of Mexico and on its Montana gas fields.

£1bn tap stock flops

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Government's funding programme suffered a setback yesterday when the bulk of its new £1 billion 1984 tap stock was left at the tender.

Applications were allotted in full at the minimum price of 99.50 per cent.

The announcement of the new stock, the first medium-term dated issue since October 1981 caused something of a stir last Friday, since the minimum

price was pitched aggressively at about 50p below market levels.

This was taken to mean that the Government was determined to maintain heavy sales of gilts to hold back monetary growth before the Budget, even at the cost of keeping yields high.

Gilts have performed poorly this week, unsettled not only by the new tap, but by indications that US interest rates are unlikely to fall further.

This was admitted by Mr Martin Feldstein, head of the President's council of economic advisers.

If neither was done, he said the deficit would balloon to \$300 billion and the forecasts for growth, inflation and interest rates would have to be revised completely.

Both sides agreed that the threat to a sustained recovery, adequate capital formation and balanced development of the economy was clear. They have not yet agreed on how to remove the threat.

Democratic leaders said the President should propose a list of specific cuts and revenue closures and that he must state exactly what he intends to do after the election so that the voters have a clear choice.

But Mr David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said that this would be political suicide. In a briefing on the budget, he said: "There are going to be a lot of hard bullets to bite after the election and we are not going to put up a list now for all the Democratic candidates to shoot down."

Based on present tax and spending laws, the deficits indicated in the Reagan budget would be even larger than the President projected, rising from \$182 billion in the fiscal year 1983 to \$220 billion by 1989 and accounting for close to 5 per cent of the US GNP for the next four years, house analysts said.

"The long-term funding problems of the earnings-related pension would disappear."

Lord Banks's proposals have the backing of the Liberal Party, social services and taxation panel, but will not become Liberal policy unless approved by the Liberal Assembly or Council.

His recommendations will get short shrift from pensions giants like Legal and General which also published yesterday its submissions to Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr John Craddock, pensions director of Legal and General, said: "Proposals for personal and portable pensions could seriously undermine United Kingdom occupational pension schemes and leave millions of employed people and their families much worse off."

Exports 'to boost small companies'

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Prospects for British exports this year may be even better than the forecast 4 per cent rise and small companies could be the ones to benefit, said Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, at the Small Business Bureau national conference at Frimley, Surrey, yesterday.

About 80 per cent of those using British Overseas Export Board (BOEB) services, to introduce British companies to overseas markets, fell into the small firms category he said.

Mr Channon said: "I believe export prospects may be even better the rise so far forecast. In the last quarter of last year they were up by 9.5 per cent on the previous quarter."

BOEB services were likely to be reinforced for small companies. A review had been started to see how services to small companies could be improved.

Government support for small businesses was echoed by the prime minister who also spoke at the conference.

It emerged that some 60 schemes helpful to small businesses are to be collected into a much smaller group, each with a clear purpose. The plan will be drawn up by May. The number of schemes could be confusing to small companies, said Mrs Thatcher.

There were bearing fruit, the conference was told. Some 20,000 businesses registered for value-added tax in the three years to 1982.

Bigger break wanted, page 17

Economy 'set for growth'

The economy is likely to grow by nearly 2.5 per cent a year between 1984 and 1988, according to Mr David Kern, chief economist at National Westminster Bank.

This would be slightly faster than the EEC average and a significant improvement on past performance when Britain's growth rate was only half that of the industrial world as a whole.

In the February issue of the bank's *Economic and Financial Outlook*, he says Britain's medium-term prospects remain better than at any time since the 1973 oil crisis.

Tebbit warns US on trade barriers

From Our Correspondent, Washington

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, bluntly warned the United States yesterday to prevent protectionist actions in the current election year which would not only damage its economy but have grave consequences for the Western alliance.

In his first visit to Washington since assuming his present position last October, Mr Tebbit delivered a hard-hitting address in which he raised Europe's strong concern over the growing number of trade restrictive measures being adopted in the United States.

Mr Tebbit said the US appeared to be poised at a critical stage in its economic recovery where it could make the right or wrong choice on trade-related matters.

Bluntly, the wrong choice would not just be the wrong choice for the American economy, it would be the wrong choice for Western security, the

Index rises 5.3 points

A steadier performance overnight on Wall Street enabled the London stock market to pick itself up off the floor yesterday as share prices enjoyed a modest rally.

The FT Index having lost nearly 33 points this week rose 5.3 to 885.0 as a few cheap buyers appeared on the scene. But prices closed below their level of the day as further selling developed in New York in early trade. Blue chips managed small improvements of between 2p at 3p, although most investors decided to tread warily for the time being.

Tension in the Middle East brought gold shares back into favour and the bullion price improved on the world's market. Oil shares were also singled out for attention including those with big North Sea interests. But the Government's new "tap" £1,000m of Exchequer 9½ per cent 1998 has been badly received. The Bank of England yesterday announced that all tenders had been met in full at the minimum price £94.50. Dealers said investors had taken up only a small percentage of the issue are expected to open at a discount later today. Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 885.0 up 5.3
FT Glits: 82.37 up 0.19
FT All Share: 486.24 up 2.49
Bargains: 24,828
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 103.35 up 0.15
New York: Dow Jones
Industrial Average:
(latest) 1172.42 down 8.07
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 10,099.58 up 38.67
Hongkong: Hang Seng
Index 1078.79 down 6.61

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.425 up 30pts
Index 81.5 down 0.2
DM 3.8950 down 0.01
FF 11.95 down 0.01
Yen 331 up 0.25

DOLLAR

Index 130.4 down 0.3
DM 2.7525
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4135
Dollar DM 2.7530

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.576926
SDR £0.736040

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week
fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9½
3 month DM 5½-5½
3 month FF 14½-14½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 10½-10½
ECED Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period January 4, to
February 7, 1984 inclusive:
9.493 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$384.95 pm \$386.25
close \$386-386.50 (£273-273.50)
New York (close): \$386.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$397.50-399.50 (£281.25-282.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$90-91 (£63.50-64)
"Excludes VAT"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call to curb exports of scrap metal

Britain's ferrous scrap merchants, whose exports now account for 40 per cent of output at prices which have doubled in the last year, yesterday defended themselves against calls from steel makers for export restrictions.

Pressure has been growing inside the European Community for exports of scrap to be constrained in the hope that as a result prices would decline. But the British Scrap Federation said yesterday that there was no case to be made for restraint at a time when it was quite able to supply the needs of the domestic steel-making industry. Last year, BSF members exported a record 3.8m tonnes of scrap worth £188m.

● Noble Grossart, the Edinburgh-based merchant bank, raised pre-tax profits from £1.47m to £1.52m in the year to January 31 and Mr Angus Grossart, managing director, says the group is entering a period of substantial growth in activity and profits.

● Mr Richard Giordano, chief executive of BOC, said that he continued to expect a sharp profits growth this year. At the annual shareholders meeting the chairman, Sir Leslie Smith, also won shareholders approval for the chief executive to buy his London home, rented from the firm, for £500,000, the equivalent of Mr Giordano's annual salary.

● Another sign of the improving economic outlook came yesterday from Trade Indemnity, the leading United Kingdom credit insurance company, which reported that business failures notified by its policyholders in January 1984 fell by 14.6 per cent compared with January 1983, to 276.

● Barclays Bank International's floating rate note issue to raise fresh capital has been increased from \$250m to \$350m (£248m). Barclays Merchant Bank announced yesterday.

Shares drop sharply in slow trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones)

Stocks were down sharply in early trading yesterday. But the trading pace slowed noticeably later.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down about 8 points to below 1173 and the transportation average was off almost 8 points to 521.

Declining issues were 8-to-5 over advances.

Mr Ronald Koenig, managing director at Ladenburg Thalmann, said: "The market is probably bottoming out around here after a deep and fast sell-off."

But Mr Koenig said there was

WALL STREET

"lessening of the selling pressure" now in the last remnants of the drop. We see a buying opportunity here with much higher prices after a difficult first quarter. Among the blue chip leading indicators were General Electric down ¼ at 53½; International Business Machines down ½ at 110; Eastman Kodak down ¼ at 70½; NCR down ¼ at 113½; and US Steel down ¼ at 27½.

Telephones 158½ down 2½; Chicago Milwaukee 103½ up ½; Motorola 115½ down 1½.

County Bank said there was no question of a higher bid without talks with the board first.

The Stylo board has already said there is nothing further to discuss and no talks have been held since the original approach. Harris says that it has letters from holders of 30 per cent of the Stylo shares, mainly institutions, in favour of a bid.

Harris is interested in Stylo both for its property and Pennywise discount stores which are similar to its own Pound-sprecher chain.

Without board agreement Harris cannot win control of Stylo even if all the other shareholders accept his 325p per share offer.

Stylo could easily mount a strong defence on asset backing from freehold high street property which is probably worth at least 500p per share.

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News background: Reagan's budget deficit

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The continuing falls in Wall Street share prices this week reflect a new feeling of nervousness about the American economy. This was triggered off by President Reagan's 1985 budget proposal to Congress, which failed to deal with the country's huge budget deficit. It was compounded by the contradictory spirit of statements by Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman.

In two days of evidence to Congress this week, Mr Volcker has made clear his anxiety about the scale of the budget deficit, which he said he would like to see fall by at least \$50 billion a year. Yesterday he added that a reduction of only \$30 billion to \$50 billion would not lead him to loosen monetary targets, but he conceded that continued reductions in the deficit, leading to lower interest rates, might lead to changes in financial flows which would make looser targets appropriate.

Mr Volcker also made clear yesterday his view that no action to reduce the deficit would increase risks of renewed recession in the United States. On the course of interest rates during 1984, he said that the

Federal Reserve's targets were consistent with real economic growth of 4-4½ per cent, and that interest rates would only fall if growth flagged below this level - unless there was action on the budget deficit. He also pointed to its consequences for the American balance of payments (and, by implication, the dollar) pointing out that the necessary inflows of foreign capital might not continue to be forthcoming.

But President Reagan, against the advice of some of his top advisers, decided not to propose unpopular programmes to reduce the deficit in his new budget on grounds that the US economy is moving along smoothly in an election year, inflation is down and he can wait until after the election to make his move.

It has a calculated political gamble, because now the stage is set for a year-long national debate before packed audiences on the causes and possible cures of what Democrats are calling the Reagan deficits.

Instead of attacking the deficits head-on in any of the three areas thought possible - defence cuts, tax increases or

cuts in middle class insurance and pension benefits known as "entitlements" - Mr Reagan proposed a two-part strategy of a little action now and a lot of unspecified action later.

He hinted that after the elections he would hit the middle class with substantial benefit cuts and propose a complete overhaul of the US tax system.

For now Mr Reagan has proposed bipartisan negotiations started yesterday with leaders of Congress on a \$100 billion "bompayment" -

RACING: DESERT ORCHID EARNS POSSIBLE CRACK AT CHAMPION HURDLE

Gritter enhances Aintree chance with bold show of jumping

By Michael Seely

Gritter forced his way back to the front of the Grand National picture with a superb display of jumping at Aintree yesterday. After continuing to outpace his rivals, the 1982 Aintree winner was outpaced by Tracys Special and Canny Danny in the straight. John Francome was delighted with the performance. Gritter ran a marvellous race. He's still as fit as a pig. He's bound to show further improvement and the National is still a long way off.

The champion jockey missed riding Gritter into fifth place behind Corbiere last year due to a broken collar bone but it now seems likely that Francome will partner Gritter on March 31. Gritter is now either 16-1 or 20-1 with leading bookmakers.

Frank Gilman, Gritter's owner, breeder and trainer, is enjoying his annual holiday in Tenerife but Steve Marshall, his head lad, said: "Gritter was not right last year and this is the first he's been for months. Mr Gilman will be back to watch Gritter run at Nottingham in 10 days' time and he'll probably have another couple of races before Aintree."

Tracy's Special's neck victory over Canny Danny gave Andy Turner the richest prize of the former jockey's short career as a trainer. Steve Marshall said: "Tracy's Special is a very good horse. He's won the winner's stamina by sending the eight-year-old into the lead a mile from home. Canny Danny threw down a determined challenge over the last three furlongs but his favourite was always just being held."

Both the winner and runner-up now have the Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap at Cheltenham as their principal target. Gritter has done remarkably well with Tracy's Special since taking the gelding over from Richard Hannon in December 1982. Four of his six victories in that period have been gained this season. The Marlborough trainer is now praying that the ground will dry up in time for the Schweppes Gold Trophy on Saturday. "Secret Ballot has won in the past but he's got so much speed that the drier it is the better," Turner said.

Jimmy Fitzgerald, Canny

Huntingdon

GOING: Good to soft

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General Appointments

The Times guide to career development

The non-executive director role

Appointment of an employee to the board of a company usually means more money, extra prestige and a wider range of fringe benefits - but what is it worth in corporate power and influence? In the extreme, but by no means uncommon, case of companies run by an autocrat, becoming a director is about as meaningful as getting one of the lesser birthday honours.

Even at best, there is an inherent contradiction in the status of being simultaneously an employee and a director of a company. Because some boardroom colleagues will be one's functional superiors, it will be hard to have what may, on occasion, be a tough discussion about matters of policy. Yet that is what about meetings are supposed to be about. They are also supposed to be about the introduction of new ideas; and it is difficult for new ideas to be aired in a circle of people who see a great deal of each other and possibly not enough of the outside world.

To prevent this happening, there is a growing practice of appointing non-executive directors: according to a recent survey by headhunters Korn Ferry International, some 90 per cent of the larger UK companies have at least one on the board.

The term "non-executive" might suggest a person without real responsibilities - the sort of noble cipher that still adorns the letterheads of some of the more old-fashioned companies. Nowadays, though, such a person is the exception. Non-executive directors have real duties, though not of a direct managerial nature. They do not, for example, give orders to employees. So what do they do and what sort of people get appointed?

A typical example of the new breed is Clive Carr, who, as well as being executive chairman of the Park Lane Hotel, London, is also a non-executive director of a number of companies of a totally different kind. One of them is in publishing - an industry where he has strong family connections. Another is in a first division football club, where he can combine his wide administrative experience with his interest in sport: he was a distinguished all-round athlete in his younger days.

He says that the way a football club

Godfrey Golzen
describes a system
which enhances the
value of employees or
a company's board

is run is an extreme example of non-executive directorship in action. "You have a manager who has responsibility for achievement, just like a company executive. Behind him you have what is often an entirely non-executive board. They don't tell the players how to play, but they do create a financial climate that enables the manager to get on with the job of meeting an agreed set of objectives."

It is common for non-executives to be in a minority of two or three on a board. Though there is nothing mandatory about numbers or responsibilities, it is generally understood that they must be able to contribute particular expertise or general experience not possessed by the board's full-time members. Non-executive directors are quite often appointed by banks, or large minority shareholders, to widen a company's horizons or to undertake specific tasks. The most common task is to sit on an audit committee to institute or review financial controls. The role of a non-executive director then resembles that of a part-time consultant.

More often, though, the initiative comes from the chairman. Clive Carr points out that there are matters that a chief executive may want to discuss with colleagues who have a less direct involvement with his company. "There are things I would not want to broach prematurely - acquisitions, for instance," he says. Another issue that arises in large companies is the performance of senior executives; it helps enormously to get a second opinion. Then there is the question of one's own salary - "this is something you prefer to discuss with someone quite independent."

Independence, of course, is an essential attribute of the non-executive role. For this reason the old-style "friends of the chairman's family" approach to the appointment of non-executive directors is not likely to produce effective results.

No rules on fees are laid down. They range between a few hundred pounds to as much as £10,000 a year, depending on the company, and, of course, on the amount of work involved. Though non-executive duties usually take up no more than a couple of days a month, one recent appointee complained that before each monthly meeting he was expected to master a pile of financial reports the size of a doormat. That would be unusual, but the duties certainly involve some homework and also any special assignments that arise beyond mere board attendance.

Although a non-executive director is not extremely well paid, considerably more people than there are vacancies look for appointments. Requests to serve usually come through recommendation, Carr says. "Sometimes - though not as yet often - headhunters are brought in. More often, a chairman seeks suitable names from his friends and other contacts. A bank or an institution may sound out contacts among their clients." Companies are increasingly seconding promising executives to non-executive directorships in non-competitive concerns, so as to give them - and obtain through them - wider perspectives.

Though the situation somewhat corresponds to the old stage casting director's remark, "Don't ring us, we'll ring you," you can put your name forward yourself to one of the two bodies that act as clearing houses, the Institute of Directors, and PRO NED (Promotion of Non-Executive Directors, 30 Curator Street, London EC4A 1DS). Either will send you a form on which an applicant is asked to fill out details of his experience and specific contributions he could make. Those considered suitable would be called in for a personal meeting and their name kept on file.

PRO NED is sponsored by the Bank of England, the Confederation of British Industry and other prestigious bodies. The best chance of a non-executive appointment, however, is when one's name is put forward by an influential third party. This is one area where who one knows is as important as what one knows.

MARKETPLACE

Almost 2,500,000 vacancies flowed into JobCentres last year, an increase of 13 per cent on 1982. As these represent only one third of the total market, there were probably more than six and a half million vacancies.

The volume of recruitment advertising in the "quality" national newspapers increased by more than 21 per cent, indicating a faster rate of recovery in the demand for management, professional and technical staff. In contrast, the "popular" daily newspapers showed a 5 per cent fall in volume.

The rate of recovery is accelerating. In December, JobCentre vacancies increased by almost 22 per cent on the

Philip Schofield looks
at job vacancies

year before and advertising in the "quality" press was up by over 40 per cent.

The number of vacancies advertised on PER's weekly *Executive Post* in 1983 was 27,153 - almost 29 per cent up on 1982. However, some of these arose under the community programmes, which are now tailing off.

The recovery in the recruitment market seems set to continue through 1984. A survey of 1,260 leading employers, collectively representing

more than three million staff, shows that job prospects in the first quarter of this year are more favourable than during any first quarter of the last four years. The survey, conducted by Manpower Ltd, states that more employers expect to increase staff than are forecasting job losses. Most economic forecasters are now predicting a continuing, if slow, recovery.

Employers are clearly having growing difficulty in filling many types of vacancy. It is significant that the flow of vacancies into JobCentres was higher than the outflow in 1983. Thus the average number of unfilled vacancies during 1983 was over 30 per cent up on 1982.

Site Construction Manager

A site construction manager is required to act as an American client's representative on site during the construction of a new 55,000 sq. ft. technical support and distribution building at Swindon Wilshire, start May 1984.

The applicant should have full qualifications and practical experience in mechanical and electrical engineering, together with sound working knowledge of site building construction. Ability will also have to be shown in writing and detailed progress reports during 12 month contract period.

Salary by negotiation but up to £15,000 Sterling.

Please write with full details of experience to:

JOLLY AND MILLARD ARCHITECTS
10 DEVIZES ROAD, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE SN1 4BH
or TELEPHONE (0793) 485205

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE ENGINEERS

Three excellent opportunities have arisen for science based graduates to work with The Technology Development Team at Davy McKee on applied research and development projects.

Relevant degree disciplines could include engineering science, mechanical/electrical/electronic engineering, Physics, Maths etc. Candidates with industrial experience would be particularly welcome, but this is not essential.

This work is an exciting new venture that has the full resource support of the Dorset Institute of Higher Education which will provide academic and computing back-up throughout the scheme.

These appointments are available now for a two year term with the prospect of an on going appointment with 'Davy McKee' to follow. Commencing salary will be not less than £7,215 p.a. and could be higher depending upon qualifications and experience.

To apply please write as soon as possible with full CV's or phone for application form and details to Training and Employment Manager, Davy McKee (Poole) Ltd, 551/553 Wallisdown Road, Poole, Dorset, BH12 5AG. Telephone: Bournemouth (0202) 51221.

FIELD SUPERVISOR

Young graduate (21-24) required in March for leading camping/caravanning holiday tour operator, providing holidays in Europe.

Experience in this industry an advantage but not essential. Driving licence necessary. Fluency in French required. Knowledge of German, Italian or Spanish would be an advantage. Must be prepared to spend approximately 10 months per year abroad. Write for an application form to:

Euro Camp
Eurocamp Travel Ltd.,
Edmondson House,
Tatton Street, Knutsford,
Cheshire WA16 6BG.

The Federation of British Artists

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGER

with an appreciation of the visual arts. Candidates should have experience in the disciplines of Finance and General Management with some experience in Art Galleries and/or the Art Market desirable. Salary negotiable from £15,000. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and immediately acknowledged.

Applications with curriculum vitae to:

General

EXECUTIVES

Well established and highly successful multi-business financial services group requires for London two to open up and develop a number of wholesale and retail projects which would become full group subsidiary companies required to contribute full bottom line profit based on turnover and expanded assets during 1984.

Candidates must be able to show (1) success in a similar and related operation, (2) disciplined entrepreneurial flair and (3) ability to work outside "Big Company" environment.

Applications with a handwritten letter explaining how your experience matches our requirements to Paul M Griffin, 13/15 Davies Street, London W1. Interviews by appointment, in London on 15, 16 and 17 February 1984.

Who's Who International Publications is looking for an

Excel Representative

In United Kingdom (Sales - Management - Sales Organization). Write to A Reader, Editor, Bourdighingdon 25 - 1840 St. Shave-Wayne, Belgium. Tel: 02/720.48.27.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London) Keppel Street WC1E 7HT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (PERSONNEL)

Applications are invited for a two-year appointment as Assistant Secretary at this postgraduate medical school. The candidate will be responsible for all aspects of personnel administration for the school's non-academic staff and will be required to undertake specific projects in connection with the construction of all personnel and other records.

Candidates should have appropriate professional qualifications, experience in the field of personnel management/industrial relations and preferably experience in the sector of a non-academic staff and will be required to undertake specific projects in connection with the construction of all personnel and other records.

Salary will be in the range £11,500 to £14,135 (under review) plus 21,186 a year London plus other metropolitan benefits and 7 weeks annual leave and public holidays.

CLERK

To the Stationers and Newspaper makers Company

The Clerk is 44-time Chief Executive, similar to smaller Trade Association and participates in current negotiations. Salary to £15,000. Age 40-50 preferred.

Write fully to the Master c/o Secretary, 13/15 Davies Street, London W1. Interview by Paul M Griffin, 13/15 Davies Street, London W1. Interviews by appointment, in London on 15, 16 and 17 February 1984.

ARCHITECT

PRACTICE DEPARTMENT

The Royal Institute of British Architects is to give support to members on issues affecting their working lives. An architect is needed to help develop services and to strengthen the RIBA's influence on the local, economic and administrative climate affecting practice. The post carries specific responsibilities for work on building contracts, on changing methods of building procurement, and on professional liability and insurance. The successful candidate will have to deal extensively and systematically with these issues in the building industry and with the public.

Candidates for this exciting and important job should be architects with not less than three years' experience in practice. They should be based in London but must be prepared to travel and to lecture.

Salary £11,467 on a scale rising to £14,000 and subject to review in April.

TRAINING COURSE ADMINISTRATOR

£8,000 + Perks

Major international firm located in superb City office seeks person ideally aged 23-27 to organize Training Courses for professional people. A good standard of education and course administration experience necessary. Driving licence essential.

Contact: Lorraine Hindmarsh on 405 6148

Kingsland Personnel Consultants

A MATURE PERSON

with extensive administration experience in office partitioning industry required as Assistant to Managing Director of a New Maiden Survey company with a million pound turnover. Salary is negotiable. Please write giving details to Ian Hawkins, 159 Burlington Road, New Maiden, Surrey.

1984 - YOUR CRUCIAL YEAR?

Changing your career? Finding employment? Taking vital exams? NOW IS THE TIME to consult us for expert assessment and guidance. Free brochures:

- CAREER ANALYSIS
- 90 Gloucester Place, W1
- 01-335 5452 (24 hrs)
- 01-335 5452 (24 hrs)

HMS Belfast Deputy Keeper

HMS Belfast, moored at Symon's Wharf on the River Thames opposite the Tower of London, is an integral part of the Imperial War Museum and is open to visitors throughout the year.

The Deputy Keeper is responsible to the Keeper for the day-to-day running of the ship including all aspects of security, her presentation to the public, and for the management and administration of the ship's staff of 67. Other responsibilities include the general appearance of HMS Belfast; the upkeep and improvement of exhibitions and displays on board; liaison with outside agencies and authorities regarding the use of the ship; the berthing of, and liaison with, visiting warships and merchant ships alongside; and conformity with appropriate RN ceremonial procedure.

Candidates who should normally have served as officers on the General or Special Duties Lists of the Royal Navy must have a general knowledge of the arrangement, weapons and machinery of ships of the type and period to which HMS Belfast belongs. A thorough knowledge of the traditions, procedures and customs of the Royal Navy together with general knowledge of ship husbandry principles is essential. Some knowledge of relevant administrative procedures will be advantageous.

Salary as Museum Officer Grade D within the range £10,720-£13,765 according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 2 March 1984) write to: Civil Service Commission, Alconton Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: C4/382/1.

Imperial War Museum

Executive Search/Recruitment Consultant

During eight years of specialisation in executive search and selection within the investment sector, we have established a strong following from Stockbroking and institutional clients, whom we advise on many issues.

We seek an additional consultant to help maintain our high standards of service and assist further growth. The person who joins us will probably be aged 24 to 32 with a good track record in Stockbroking. Institutional investment or Recruitment. Personal qualities, however, are just as important: discretion, confidence, perseverance, enthusiasm, determination plus the ability to work well, both as an individual and as part of a team. If you meet our outrageous expectations and feel you would like to play an important role in the further development of our young but professional company, you will progress entirely on your own merits and be rewarded accordingly.

Please contact Stephen Embleton or Elizabeth Evans, who will treat all enquiries in the strictest of confidence.

Stephens Associates
International Recruitment Consultants
44 Carter Lane, London EC4V 3SE. 01-234 7001

Hong Kong and London's largest currency exchange dealers require a

RETAIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to be responsible for their 18 plus branch retail operations, which are open 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in the West End of London.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate with other qualifications and experience: (1) bottom line responsibility in a fast moving, preferably related, business; (2) success in maintaining and accelerating the momentum and pace of the going business and expanding it - both profitably; (3) skill in team management and direct responsibility for staff; (4) successful presentation of the business to shareholders, institutions and the press; (5) the ability to thrive and survive in a tight margin, highly competitive and very disciplined business; (6) willingness to travel and participate in overseas expansion.

Applications in handwriting to Paul M Griffin, 13/15 Davies Street, London, W1. Applications of over two pages or from employment agencies will not be considered.

A new career in '84

A HIGH INCOME You will earn over £12,000 in your first year with us if you meet basic targets. Our better consultants earn over £18,000 p.a.

SECURITY Working for part of £1.8 billion financial services group, you will be on a £25,000 (unlimited) and based in LONDON, LEEDS, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER or BIRMINGHAM.

If you are aged 22 and over, positive, hardworking and well spoken.

HONOURS GRADUATES

SEEING ISN'T ALWAYS BELIEVING

At the moment there are 2 dots in front of you. Cover your right eye and look directly at the right hand dot with your left eye. Slowly move your head up and down and at some point the left hand dot will vanish. This is called the blind spot.

Appearances can be deceiving - things are not always as they seem on the surface. As a Tax Inspector, you have to get at the underlying facts in a case, using your powers of analysis, perception and intuition in order to reach a fair conclusion. In doing this, you are involved in many face to face interviews with business people and their advisers in all walks of life - from the criss man band, to the Emu-mation, much rational.

Within a few months, you can expect to be handling your own case work. After 3 years you will be managing a sizeable team of staff - and in due course you should be running your own tax district.

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The EITB - largest of the Industrial Training Boards established by the 1964 Act - exists to serve the varied training needs of the engineering industry, comprising 22,000 establishments employing over 2 million people.

The Director advises and guides the Board in the formulation of policies and objectives and is accountable for their achievement, leading and directing an organisation with an annual expenditure budget of £58m. Collaboration and communication with the industry, Government ministries and agencies and other bodies and institutions concerned are important aspects.

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